

# Parish Biodiversity Audit

for

# Slapton

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Prepared by Christine Mason  
Green Ecology Ltd

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## Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	3
DESIGNATED SITES .....	5
SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST .....	5
<i>Slapton Ley Site of Special Scientific Interest</i> .....	5
SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION.....	7
REGIONALLY IMPORTANT GEOLOGICAL AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL SITES .....	8
COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES .....	8
<i>Alston Wash &amp; Battleford Wood County Wildlife Site</i> .....	9
<i>Merricombe County Wildlife Site</i> .....	9
<i>Burlestone &amp; Leader Woods County Wildlife Site</i> .....	10
<i>Quack Meadow &amp; Orestone Wood County Wildlife Site</i> .....	11
<i>Strete Marsh County Wildlife Site</i> .....	11
<i>Goldswell Quarry County Wildlife Site</i> .....	12
<i>Coleridge Place County Wildlife Site</i> .....	12
<i>Start County Wildlife Site</i> .....	12
OTHER DESIGNATIONS AND REGIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS .....	13
<i>South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</i> .....	13
<i>Heritage Coast</i> .....	13
OTHER HABITATS (IDENTIFIED FROM FIELD SURVEY): .....	14
COASTAL VEGETATED SHINGLE .....	14
FRESHWATER LAGOON .....	16
FEN, MARSH, SWAMP .....	17
FRESHWATER REEDBED .....	18
WET WOODLAND/CARR .....	19
GRAZING MARSH .....	19
SPECIES-RICH HEDGES .....	20
CHURCHYARDS.....	22
STONE WALLS.....	23
RECREATION AREAS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE .....	23
ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS .....	24
REDUNDANT AND TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS.....	24
RIVERS, STREAMS AND PONDS .....	24
ROADSIDE VERGES.....	25
UNIMPROVED GRASSLAND .....	26
WOODLANDS .....	26
VETERAN TREES.....	27
GREEN LANES.....	28
PITS, QUARRIES AND CUTTINGS .....	30
OTHER POSSIBLE HABITATS .....	30
UNCONFIRMED COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES (UWS).....	31
OTHER SITES OF WILDLIFE INTEREST .....	31
<b>Species .....</b>	<b>32</b>
IMPORTANT SPECIES .....	32
BIRDS.....	32
PLANTS.....	32
MAMMALS .....	33
INVERTEBRATES .....	35
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS.....	35
<b>The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (Devon BAP).....</b>	<b>36</b>
BIODIVERSITY LINKS:.....	36
LINKS BETWEEN THE MAIN WILDLIFE HABITATS OF SLAPTON AND THE DEVON AND UK	
BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS (BAP) .....	37
<b>Some Ideas for Local Action.....</b>	<b>38</b>
1 FURTHER SURVEYS:.....	38

2	<u>INFLUENCE THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE:.....</u>	<u>39</u>
3	<u>BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL LANDOWNERS:.....</u>	<u>39</u>
4	<u>ADOPT A ROAD VERGE: .....</u>	<u>40</u>
5	<u>WILDLIFE GARDENING: .....</u>	<u>40</u>
6	<u>JOIN LOCAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS: .....</u>	<u>40</u>
7	<u>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOUTH DEVON AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY</u> <u>41</u>	
8	<u>LINK BIODIVERSITY TO SLAPTON PARISH PLAN:.....</u>	<u>41</u>
9	<u>JAPANESE KNOTWEED: .....</u>	<u>41</u>
	<b><u>Useful sources of further information:.....</u></b>	<b><u>43</u></b>
	<u>POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING: .....</u>	<u>44</u>
	<b><u>Bibliography.....</u></b>	<b><u>46</u></b>
	<b><u>Acknowledgements.....</u></b>	<b><u>47</u></b>
	<b><u>Appendix 1 – Notable sites and species within and around Slapton Parish. ....</u></b>	<b><u>48</u></b>
	<b><u>Appendix 2 - Species list recorded within Slapton parish during field visit.....</u></b>	<b><u>68</u></b>
	<b><u>Appendix 3 - Key Biodiversity Features of Slapton Parish.....</u></b>	<b><u>70</u></b>

## **Slapton - Parish Plan Biodiversity Project**

This document has been produced as a starting point to help community action for wildlife. By starting to bring together knowledge of the natural assets of the parish, it may go some way to achieving its aim of contributing to - and stimulating ideas for - local action.

It should be emphasised that it is just a beginning. It does not represent a comprehensive account of the parish and is based very largely on existing records held by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC). There will be a wealth of local knowledge that can be used to build upon and improve this report. Indeed, it is important that it is seen as a 'living document' and one that belongs to the parish. It is hoped that it will be added to and refined by the people of Slapton parish in future years.

Did you know...?

### **The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006**

Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 places the following biodiversity duty on all public bodies:

'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'

The duty applies to all local authorities, including parish and town councils. Its purpose is to raise the profile of biodiversity and make it a 'natural and integral' part of policy and decision making.

The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has issued guidance for local authorities on implementing this biodiversity duty. It can be downloaded from Defra's website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/la-guid-english.pdf>

## **Introduction**

Biodiversity is a term that describes all of life on earth, from the smallest micro-organism to the largest mammal, the blue whale. Life is found almost everywhere on the planet and in huge variety. Even a humble back garden may be home to thousands of species and is therefore an important part of the planet's biodiversity. The Slapton Parish Biodiversity Audit begins to describe the area's local wildlife and shows how it fits into the wider picture of biodiversity in Devon and the UK.

Slapton parish lies in an idyllic position on the South Hams coast, 7 miles (12 km) west of Dartmouth and 7 miles (12 km) east of Kingsbridge, within the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The parish is bordered to the south by Slapton Sands along which the A379, the main link from Kingsbridge to Dartmouth runs. To the north the parish is bordered by the Wallaton Cross to Forder road, to the east by the River Gara valley and to the west by the Start Stream valley. The geology consists of slates, sandstones and shales. The soil type varies from brown earths on the ridges to brown podzolic soils in the valleys.

The village of Slapton is the main settlement. The village lies in the small hollow of the Slapton Stream valley about half a mile from the beach with just under 200 households and a population of around 450. Village services include a shop and two pubs. The area attracts large numbers of visitors and tourists and has a high proportion of second homes alongside various types of holiday accommodation. The majority of permanent residents within the village are retired or semi-retired. Beyond the village the parish is rural and sparsely populated. Smaller settlements include the tiny hamlets of Start on the west side of the parish and Hansel to the east.

Until the construction of the coast road in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the village was very peaceful with the parish economy based largely on farming and accessible only by the narrow, winding lanes from inland.

Today, the area is most famous for Slapton Ley, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which was designated a National Nature Reserve (NNR) in 1993 in recognition of it being an important wetland site. The Ley is South West England's largest natural lake and is entirely fresh water separated from the sea by a shingle bar known as Slapton Sands.

Inland from Slapton Sands and the Ley are rolling hills rising to a plateau in the north and falling to steep wooded river and stream valleys to the east and west. The agricultural areas consist of a mixture of arable fields and pastures grazed by sheep, cattle, ponies and alpaca, surrounded by hedges. The fields include potentially unimproved grassland and semi-improved grassland on the smaller, steeper sloping fields and improved grassland and arable land generally on the larger fields of the plateau in the north of the parish. Some of the steeper sections of land are covered with gorse and bracken, with marshy habitat in the base of the stream valleys. Most of the parish's farmland is in Countryside Stewardship, an agri-environmental government funding scheme.

There are eight County Wildlife Sites (CWS) within the parish. Alston Wash & Battleford Wood, Merricombe, Quack Meadow & Orestone Wood, Strete Marsh and Coleridge Place have all been designated for their mix of broadleaved woodland and unimproved or semi-improved neutral grassland. Burlestone & Leader Woods has been designated for Ancient semi-natural woodland; Goldswell Quarry for its mixture of woodland and scrub and finally a site near Start for its mix of marshy, unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, carr woodland, reedbed and tall herb vegetation.

There are other areas of habitat within the parish, particularly on the steeper valley sides which are potentially equally as interesting but have not been surveyed (for example grazing pasture and scrubland on the edge of the Gara valley in the north east of the parish).

Like other areas of interesting habitat, woodlands within the parish are located mainly on steeper land along the river and stream valleys (for example; Buckland Wood, Burlestone Wood, Leader Wood within the River Gara valley; Slapton Wood within the tributary valley of the Gara (Slapton Wood Stream) and Battleford Wood within the Start Stream valley. Slapton Wood forms part of the Slapton Ley NNR and the wood is preserved as a sanctuary area with limited access.

Notable sites and species recorded with Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) within and close to Slapton parish are given in Appendix 1. The species include ones listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), such as Slow-Worm, Lesser Horseshoe bat and Skylark, and also on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (Devon BAP) including; Great Green Bush Cricket, Primrose and Brown Hare. Otter, Dormouse and Greater Horseshoe Bat are listed in both the UK and Devon BAP, and have been recorded in Slapton Ley NNR and other locations within the parish. An explanation of the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan is presented on page 37.

The parish site visit for this report was commissioned for and carried out in January 2009; it should be borne in mind that this is not the ideal season to carry out biodiversity surveys as some species will not be visible at this time of the year. A full species list recorded during the January site surveys is given in Appendix 2.

## **Designated Sites**

Although much of Slapton Ley NNR is publicly accessible, many of the other designated sites are on private land: the listing of a site does not imply any right of public access.

## **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

**Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** are notified by Natural England (formerly English Nature) because of their plants, animals or geological features (the latter are geological SSSIs or gSSSI). Natural England needs to be consulted before any operations likely to damage the special interest are undertaken. SSSI is a statutory designation with legal implications.

## **Slapton Ley Site of Special Scientific Interest**

Covering over 219 hectares, Slapton Ley SSSI runs along the southern edge of the parish and is the site of the largest natural freshwater lake in South West England. The SSSI was originally designated in 1954. In 1993 Slapton Ley was also designated a National Nature Reserve (NNR). The Ley was formed in post-glacial times by the damming of a former estuary by a shingle

bar. The site supports a wide variety of habitats and possesses a rich and diverse flora and fauna. It is of particular importance for lichens, fungi and invertebrates.

Over 490 species of vascular plant have been recorded, including one national rarity (Strapwort *Corrigiola litoralis*).

A causeway separates the site into Higher and Lower Leys. The Lower Ley is a large eutrophic freshwater lagoon possessing a representative aquatic flora while the Higher Ley consists mainly of rich fen and carr vegetation. The margins of the Lower Ley and almost all the Higher Ley is dominated by Common Reed and locally by Lesser Reedmace, Hemlock Water-dropwort, and Yellow Flag. This reed swamp is important as an autumn feeding area for Reed Warblers and Sedge Warblers and the site as a whole is noted for its diversity of passage and wintering birds.

Slapton Ley is also important for the abundance and diversity of its aquatic invertebrate fauna. Gastropods include the rare *Segmentina nitida* and the uncommon *Planorbis laevis*, while Dragonflies include the regionally uncommon Migrant Hawker and the Hairy Dragonfly.

The Higher Ley is notable for its population of European Otter. The western shore of the Lower Ley supports a colony of Strapwort *Corrigiola litoralis*, a nationally-rare plant and the UK's last known remaining site.

The shingle bar has been colonised by a characteristic plant community dominated by Sea Radish and which includes Ray's Knotgrass, Yellow-horned Poppy and Viper's Bugloss.

Along the higher margins of the Leys occur belts of mixed scrub, mainly dominated by Sallows which support a variety of breeding birds including the uncommon Cetti's Warbler. Of additional interest are areas of secondary woodland, dominated in parts by Pedunculate Oak and elsewhere by a variety of other species. These woods are known to contain rare craneflies. The lichen flora of the site is outstanding with over 250 species recorded, including many rare in Britain. The mild sunny climate is reflected in lichen communities characteristic of Lusitanian and Mediterranean regions. Over 2,000 species of fungi have also been recorded, including 30 species either new to science or to Britain.

The SSSI is extensively used for courses run by Slapton Ley Field Studies Centre (FSC) and is probably one of the best documented sites in Great Britain.

(Source: Natural England's SSSI Citation)

## Links to Devon and UK BAP

### **Key habitat:**

- Eutrophic standing water (UK BAP, Devon BAP); Swamp/fen reed bed (UK BAP, Devon BAP); floodplain grazing marsh (UK BAP, Devon BAP); wet carr woodland (UK BAP, Devon BAP)
- Coastal vegetated shingle (UK BAP)

### **Key species:**

- Strapwort (UK BAP)
- Pennyroyal (UK BAP)
- Three Lobed Water Crowfoot (UK BAP)
- Shore Dock (UK BAP)
- Thrift (UK BAP)
- Golden-hair Lichen (Devon BAP, UK BAP)
- Reed Bunting (UK BAP)
- Marsh Tit (UK BAP)
- Cirl Bunting (Devon BAP, UK BAP)
- Skylark (UK BAP)
- Song Thrush (UK BAP)
- Spotted Flycatcher (UK BAP)
- House Sparrow (UK BAP)
- Yellowhammer (UK BAP)
- Linnet (UK BAP)
- Aquatic Warbler (UK BAP)
- Dormouse (Devon BAP; UK BAP)
- Otter (Devon BAP; UK BAP)
- *Segmentina nitida* (Mollusc) (UK BAP) – record unsubstantiated

## **Special Areas of Conservation**

**Special Areas of Conservation (SAC):** these are notified by Natural England because they contain species and/or habitats of European importance (listed in the Habitats Directive 1994), and are part of a network of conservation sites set up through Europe known as the Natura 2000 series. On land, all candidate SACs are, or will be notified as SSSIs. Natural England needs to be consulted before any operations likely to damage the special interest are undertaken. SAC is a statutory designation with legal implications.

Slapton Ley SSSI is east of the South Devon Shore Dock SAC which covers the coastal area between Salcombe and Beesands. The SAC was designated for its importance as an Atlantic coastal vegetation habitat and for the occurrence of Shore Dock *Rumex rupestris* which is at the eastern edge of its range. Shore Dock has been recorded within Slapton Ley and is a UK BAP priority species.

## **Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites**

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) – also known as County Geological Sites - are earth science sites that are of regional or local importance. Like County Wildlife Sites, they are included in Local Plans and referred to under PPG9. These may represent good examples of local rock formations or landform features or they may contain interesting fossils.

There are no recorded RIGS within the parish of Slapton. There has however been a recent surge of interest county-wide in the links between geology and Biodiversity. Geological data for the Slapton area can be found in the Slapton Ley FSC resource library.

## **County Wildlife Sites**

There are eight County Wildlife Sites (CWS) within Slapton parish:

- Alston Wash & Battleford Wood County Wildlife Site
- Merricombe County Wildlife Site
- Burlestone & Leader Woods County Wildlife Site
- Quack Meadow & Orestone Wood County Wildlife Site
- Goldswell Quarry County Wildlife Site
- Strete Marsh County Wildlife Site
- Coleridge Place County Wildlife Site
- Start County Wildlife Site

County Wildlife Sites are sites of county importance for wildlife, designated on the basis of the habitat or the known presence of particular species. This is not a statutory designation like Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and does not have any legal status. County Wildlife Sites are usually included in Local Plans as sites of regional or local biodiversity interest and are covered by Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9). CWS recognition does not demand any particular actions on the part of the landowner and does not give the public rights of access. However, it may increase eligibility for land management grants.

Note: 'Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation' was published by the Department of the Environment in August 2005. Planning Policy Statements (PPS) set out the Government's national policies on different aspects of planning in England. PPS9 sets out planning policies on protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system. This PPS replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 9 (PPG9) on nature conservation published in October 1994.

Records of previous habitat and species surveys for these CWS's are kept with the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC), from which the descriptions here are largely derived; conditions may have changed since these surveys. All of the sites are privately owned and there is no public

access onto them. Some of the sites are however landscape features visible from public roads and footpaths.

### **Alston Wash & Battleford Wood County Wildlife Site**

A survey in 1992 recorded this CWS to be a 22.8 ha area of broadleaved woodland, unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland and scrub. Species identified during the survey included Badger, Primrose and Bluebell. The site was not surveyed during the audit visit in 2009.

[Links to Devon and UK BAP](#)

#### **Key habitats:**

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

#### **Key Species:**

- Primrose (Devon BAP)

### **Merricombe County Wildlife Site**

A survey has identified this 11.7 ha area along the northern reaches of the The Gara River as secondary broadleaved woodland, unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland and scrub. The site is not publicly accessible but its most northerly end is visible from the road bridge south of Forder and from the Public Right of Way from a nearby house called Clovelly. The most northerly tip of the woodland has been invaded by Laurel species probably originating from the original dwelling at Clovelly, the ruins of which are visible within the woods. The grassland areas were being grazed at the time of the visit and were not surveyed in detail. There are some interesting areas of marshy habitat adjacent to the site with associated plant species including Greater Tussock Sedge and Alder.

[Links to Devon and UK BAPs](#)

#### **Key habitats:**

- Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes (Devon BAP, UK BAP)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

#### **Key Species:**

- Primrose (Devon BAP)



Merricombe County Wildlife Site

### **Burlestone & Leader Woods County Wildlife Site**

Leader & Burlestone Wood are on the steep valley sides of the Gara valley along the western fringes of the Parish. Neither wood is publicly accessible but wooded valley is a striking landscape feature providing a spectacular backdrop to the hamlet of Hansel. Both woods have been classed as Ancient semi-natural woodland and are predominantly replanted with broadleaved species. Neither woods were surveyed during the audit visit. The canopy trees appear to be predominantly Oak and Ash. The Burlestone & Leader Woods cover an area of 23.1 ha.

#### Links to Devon and UK BAP

##### **Key habitat:**

- Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes (Devon BAP)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

##### **Key species:**

- Primrose



Burlestone & Leader Woods CWS in distance

## **Quack Meadow & Orestone Wood County Wildlife Site**

Quack Meadow and Orestone Wood border the east fringe of the Parish close to the hamlet of Hansel. The 3.1 ha area is predominantly unimproved neutral grassland and secondary broadleaved woodland.

Quack Meadow and Orestone Wood fringe the eastern borders of the parish with Strete parish on the east slope of the Gara river valley. The site is recorded as unimproved neutral grassland and secondary broadleaved woodland. Although there is no public access there is a County Council maintained road along the edge of the site leading down to the valley bottom towards Hansel hamlet. The site was not surveyed during the audit visit.

The copse is visible from Hansel. The site displays some potentially interesting habitat with mixed areas of grassland, scrub and woodland.

### **Links to Devon and UK BAP**

#### **Key habitat:**

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

#### **Key species:**

- Primrose (Devon BAP)

## **Strete Marsh County Wildlife Site**



View southwards looking towards Strete Marsh (middle) and Slapton Woods (distance)

Strete Marsh CWS is located predominantly on the Gara River Valley basin along the boundary with Strete Parish marked by the Gara River itself. The site is recorded as 19.8 ha of marshy grassland, reedbed, scrub and secondary broadleaved woodland.

## Links to Devon and UK BAP

### **Key habitat:**

- Reedbed (Devon BAP, UK BAP);
- Grazing marsh (Devon BAP)
- Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes (Devon BAP)

## **Goldswell Quarry County Wildlife Site**

Goldswell Quarry is 9.4 ha of Mixed woodland and scrub. The original quarry itself is believed to have supplied hardcore for the turnpike along Slapton Sands shingle bar in the 19<sup>th</sup> century which became known locally as the 'Slapton Line'.

## Links to Devon and UK BAP

### **Key habitat:**

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

## **Coleridge Place County Wildlife Site**

Coleridge Place County Wildlife Site is recorded as 17.2 ha of secondary broadleaved woodland, scrub and semi-improved neutral grassland. The site is predominantly within the neighbouring parish of Strete, close to Strete Gate. The site acts as an important buffer habitat bordering the Higher Ley which forms part of the Slapton Ley SSSI and NNR.

## Links to Devon and UK BAP

### **Key habitat:**

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP broad habitat)

### **Key species:**

- Primrose (Devon BAP)

## **Start County Wildlife Site**

Start County Wildlife Site consists 15 ha of marshy, unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, carr woodland, reedbed and tall herb vegetation. The site runs along the Start Stream valley. Although it is in private ownership it is the most visible of the parish's eight County Wildlife Sites as it is bordered along most of its length by public rights of way or public road, providing a pleasant green link between Slapton Ley, Start and Harlestone

## Links to Devon and UK BAP

### **Key habitat:**

- Reedbed (Devon BAP, UK BAP)
- Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes (Devon BAP); Rivers (UK BAP)
- Grazing marsh (Devon BAP)
- Fen, marsh, swamp (UK BAP)



Start County Wildlife Site (marsh stream valley)

## **Other designations and regional classifications**

### **South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

South Devon AONB was designated under the 1949 National Parks and Countryside Access Act on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1960. The purpose of AONB designation is to **conserve and enhance natural beauty**.

In pursuing the primary purpose of designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry and other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to **promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment**.

Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the **demand for recreation should be met insofar as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses**.

Source: [www.southdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk)

### **Heritage Coast**

The entire coast of Slapton sits within the South Devon Heritage Coast designated in 1984 in view of the coast's notable beauty and scientific

interest. Although the designation of Heritage Coast is non-statutory unlike an AONB, it is designed to preserve the coast from undesirable development. Heritage Coasts are designated by the Countryside Agency in agreement with local authorities and landowners. The aim of designation is to conserve natural beauty and improve access to visitors.

## **Other habitats (identified from field survey):**

### **Coastal Vegetated Shingle**

Shingle is defined as sediment with particle sizes in the range 2-200 mm. It is a globally restricted coastal sediment type with few occurrences outside north-west Europe, Japan and New Zealand. Shingle beaches are widely distributed round the coast of the UK, where they develop in high energy environments. In England and Wales it is estimated that 30% of the coastline is fringed by shingle.

It is believed that the shingle bar that forms Slapton Sands formed between 3000 and 5000 years ago mainly of flint, chert and quartz shingle extending some 5.6km. The shingle amounts to 40 ha of bare shingle and coastal vegetation habitat and is a very important biodiversity feature of Slapton parish. The shingle at Slapton has been colonised by a characteristic plant community dominated by Sea Radish, and which includes Ray's Knotgrass Yellow-horned Poppy and Viper's Bugloss. Red Data Book species (list of internationally threatened species maintained by the IUCN) include Shore Dock (at the edge of its easterly range at Slapton). It was not possible to survey the shingle vegetation during the audit visit due to the time of year. A vegetation survey of the shingle ridge was undertaken for the Slapton Line Partnership in 2002 and a copy is held at the FSC Resource Library. A full species list was also compiled by Brookes and Burns (1969) and can be viewed on the FSC website.

The shingle bar has three vegetation zones namely; seaward (beach) ridge (top) and backslope, each with their associated plant and animal communities.

#### **Seaward zone (beach)**

The classic pioneer species on the seaward side can withstand exposure to salt spray and some degree of burial or erosion. Species recorded on the seaward shingle at Slapton include: Groundsel, Scarlet Pimpernel, Orache, Yellow-horned Poppy, Curled Dock, Dandelion, Sea Couch, Sea Bindweed Sea Spurge and Scentless Mayweed.

#### **Ridge (Top)**

Plant species recorded on the ridge or top of the shingle bar include: Sea Spurge, Sand Couch, Sea Mayweed, Sea Bindweed, Yellow-horned Poppy, Common Restharrow, Bird's-foot-trefoil, Sea Campion, Red Fescue, Hawkbit, Cat's Ear, Beaked Hawk's-beard and Wild Carrot. The top ridge is subject to trampling pressure from visitors and characteristic vegetation associated with

trampled ground and depressed growth of red fescue grass include rosette plants such as Buck's-horn Plantain, Ribwort, Daisy and Sea Radish. Ruderal (weed type) species are found around the car park area where shingle is mixed with road particles. These plants include: Pineappleweed, Knotgrass, Great Plantain, Ribwort and Ivy-leaved Toadflax.

### **Backslope**

The backslope (between the road and Ley) is a mixture of grassland and scrub. Plants include: Blackthorn, Holly, Red Fescue, Common Bent, Sweet Vernal, Thrift, Gorse, Bramble, Ash, Sycamore, Reed, Marsh Woundwort and Large Bindweed.

Shingle structures sufficiently stable to support perennial vegetation are a comparatively rare feature even in the UK and trampling pressure on the vegetation is a concern. The effects of trampling on shingle vegetation has been the subject of recent studies at Slapton.

The shingle bar supports breeding birds including gulls, waders and terns. Important BAP priority species include Linnet and Stonechat. Diverse invertebrate communities are found on coastal shingle, with some species restricted to shingle habitats.

### Links to Devon and UK BAPs

#### **Key habitat:**

- Coastal vegetated shingle (UK BAP)

#### **Key species:**

- Linnet (UK BAP)



Slapton Sands shingle bar

## **Freshwater Lagoon**

The freshwater coastal lagoon at Slapton Ley is the largest natural eutrophic lake in south-west England and supports an aquatic plant flora characteristic of this habitat type. The freshwater lake is relatively young (about 1000 years old), created after the shingle bar formed into its current position between 1500 and 2000 years ago. The lake is largely fed by the Gara and Start catchments and the outflow is via a culvert at Torcross and a small amount of natural seepage through the shingle.

Large areas of open freshwater are uncommon in Devon and the aquatic plants of these habitats are consequently rare. The Lower Ley is predominantly shallow open water with areas of reed-bed, tall-herb fen and fen woodland. Associated aquatic plants include stoneworts and pond weeds and the Ley is the only Devon site for Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot and soft hornwort.

Associated bird species include; Water Rail, Gadwall, Mute Swan, Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck, Kingfisher and Coot. Fish species that inhabit the lagoon include; Roach, Rudd and Perch predated by Pike and Otters. In 2005 a five year moratorium was placed on fishing in the Lower Ley. European Otter have been reported in the open waters of the Upper Ley.

In recent decades the largest threat to the lagoon has been sedimentation and eutrophication caused by agricultural intensification causing soil erosion and agricultural runoff. The Slapton catchment was one of 11 catchments in the European 'Cycleau' project (2004-2006) which aimed to improve water quality within the catchment.

### **Links to Devon and UK BAPs**

#### **Key habitat:**

- Eutrophic Standing Water (UK BAP)

**Key species:**

- Aquatic Warbler (UK BAP)
- Otter (UK, Devon BAP)



Lower Ley freshwater lagoon

**Fen, Marsh, Swamp**

These habitat types can be found in the bays of the Lower Ley, the Higher Ley and in the Start Valley.

Fens are mires that receive water and nutrients from the soil, rock and groundwater, as well as directly from precipitation.

Marsh is a variable habitat type, but usually refers to grassland on mineral soil, that has a water table close to the surface for most of the year, but not normally above ground level. It occurs largely on level areas and includes grasslands with a high proportion of rush species, sedge species or Meadowsweet; and meadows and pastures with plant communities where wetland plants, such as Marsh-marigold, are dominant over grasses.

Swamp is a habitat typically found in transitional zones between open water and exposed land. It is somewhat similar to marsh habitat, the main difference being that, in swamps, the water level is generally higher (typically above ground level); tall emergent vegetation, such as reed grasses and large sedges, are also dominant.

In general, fen habitats are more species-rich than marshes and swamps, and can support many rare species of plants and invertebrates.

Plant species recorded in the fen, marsh and swamp habitats of Slapton include: Pennyroyal *Mentha pulegium*, Prickly Sedge *Carex muricata* ssp.

*Muricata*, Three-lobed Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus tripartitus*, Convergent Stonewort *Chara connivens* ( Red Data Book species) and Hornwort *Ceratophyllum sp.* These habitats are particularly important for invertebrates, including many species of moth.

#### Links to Devon and UK BAPs

##### **Key habitat:**

- Fens (UK BAP)

##### **Key species:**

- Pennyroyal (UK BAP)
- Three-lobed Water Crowfoot (UK BAP)

### **Freshwater Reedbed**

The shores of the Lower Ley have been colonized to a large extent by common reed with important plants growing on areas of exposed mud. During summer, lower water levels expose areas of mud along the shore, which support the small annual plant Strapwort *Corrigola litoralis*; the only site of this species' occurrence in the United Kingdom, together with other mud colonisers, including Shoreweed.

The reedbeds support a nationally important assemblage of breeding birds, including Water Rail, Kingfisher, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Tufted Duck and Reed Bunting.

The reed-beds fringing the Ley are also important for migrant and wintering birds, particularly in autumn when large numbers of Swallows, Sand Martins Reed Warblers and Sedge Warblers gather to roost. In winter, the reed-beds are regularly used by Bittern.

#### Links to key Devon and UK BAPs

##### **Key habitat:**

- Reedbeds (UK BAP)
- Freshwater reed (Devon BAP)

##### **Key species:**

- Strapwort (UK BAP)
- Reed bunting (UK BAP)
- Bittern (UK BAP)

## **Wet Woodland/Carr**

Wet woodland occurs on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, usually with alder, birch and willows as the predominant tree species, but sometimes including ash, oak, pine and beech on the drier areas. It is found on floodplains, as successional habitat on fens, mires and bogs, along streams and hill-side flushes. Wet woods frequently occur in mosaics with other woodland habitat types and with open key habitats including fens. Wet Woodlands and Woodland Carr occur in Slapton parish in the Higher Ley and in the Start Valley CWS. There is a nationally important population of Cetti's Warbler breeding in the fen woodland fringing the Ley. Dormouse has also been found in the woodland carr close to the Ley.

### **Links to Devon and UK BAPs**

#### **Key Habitats:**

- Wet woodland (UK BAP)
- Alder/willow wet woodland (Devon BAP)

#### **Key Species:**

- Golden-hair Lichen (Devon BAP)
- Dormouse (Devon BAP, UK BAP)

## **Grazing marsh**

Grazing marsh is defined as periodically flooded pasture, or meadow with ditches which maintain the water levels, containing standing brackish or fresh water. The ditches are especially rich in plants and invertebrates. Almost all areas are grazed and some are cut for hay or silage. Sites may contain seasonal water-filled hollows and permanent ponds with emergent swamp communities, but not extensive areas of tall fen species like reeds; although they may abut with fen and reed swamp communities like at Slapton Southgrounds. Other areas of grazing marsh can be found in the Start Valley (CWS).

Grazing marshes are particularly important for the number of breeding waders such as Snipe, Lapwing, and Curlew. They also support internationally important populations of wintering wildfowl.

### **Links to Devon and UK BAPs**

#### **Key Habitats:**

- Grazing marsh (Devon BAP)
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (UK BAP)

#### **Key Species:**

- Curlew (Devon BAP)

## **Species-rich hedges**

Various definitions of species-rich hedges have been used in different parts of the country but it would not be unreasonable to treat a hedge that has five or more woody species in a 30-metre length as a 'species-rich' one.

Many of the hedges surrounding the fields and lanes across the parish, like many South Hams hedges are probably of medieval origin. These form an important landscape feature as well as providing an important wildlife habitat for birds, butterflies, invertebrates and mammals such as Dormice and bats. These hedges also provide sheltered wildlife corridors through areas of farmland allowing wildlife to move between areas of habitat.

There are some very different types of hedges with different characters across the parish. The lanes which rise up towards higher ground above Slapton village are lined with hedges on top of traditional Devon hedgebanks which during late spring offer a stunning 'spring bank' display of flowering plants with species such as red campion, Hedge Bedstraw, Lesser Celandine, Herb-robert, Foxglove, Stitchwort and primrose. Fern include Hart's-tongue and Polypody. Equally some of the parish's 'green lanes' which form part of the public right of way network are lined with floristically rich hedgebanks some of which have recorded over 60 species of flowering plant in recent years.

The field hedges on the higher plateau areas of the parish where land use is dominated by arable and livestock agriculture are closely trimmed and relatively low in height. Such hedges would benefit from being allowed to regrow to provide habitat for species such as Dormouse and Brown hairstreak butterfly which rely on hedgerows that have had at least two years growth as they lay their eggs on two year old Blackthorn twigs. The management of hedgerows does allow light to penetrate down to the hedgebank however and on higher ground the hedgebanks surveyed were predominantly species rich. The hedgerows themselves would largely be classed as species poor being dominated by hazel and blackthorn with occasional rose and holly.

Many of the hedges on the steeper slopes of the river and stream valleys sloping away from the higher ground are conversely under-managed. It is difficult for light to penetrate to the herb layer and consequently hedgebanks are less floristically diverse. There are gaps in many of these undermanaged hedges which would benefit from some layering. This itself will allow more light to reach the hedgebanks encouraging greater plant diversity.

Due to the time of year and time constraints it was not possible to survey the hedges in any detail and further surveys are recommended.

Hedgerows tend to be taken for granted as they always seem to be there, providing such a constant in a familiar landscape. However, they do require regular attention to keep them in good condition. That so many are still in good condition is a testament to the skill and hard work of generations of farmers. But there are changes even in the oldest hedgelines as the way the majority are managed has altered. There is now less farm labour available

and more reliance on mechanical cutting rather than traditional hedge laying (or, as it is known in Devon, 'steeping').

Even the mechanical cutting has changed as reciprocating cutters that could cut shrub stems cleanly have given way to tractor-mounted flails which can tackle slightly older growth but at the expense of every stem being shattered. Flailing can actually promote bud development (on hawthorn, for example, research indicates that severe damage to the end of a branch encourages shoot development further down in the base of the plant which can help to thicken it up). However, flailing can also leave shrubs susceptible to infection. As individual hedge plants die, they leave gaps which render the hedge less effective and which would in the past have been filled when the hedge was next steeped.

With the advent of mechanical hedge-trimming has come another change - it is now possible to trim all the hedges on a farm in one year. It is this that perhaps has had the most impact on the vertebrate wildlife. Fruiting and seeding species are very much less productive and there is a different and less varied structure. Also, shrubs that do produce a good berry crop are sometimes cut in the early autumn before the birds, particularly the migrants, can gain any advantage from this food source. A couple of generations ago, many hedges on a farm might have been cut less frequently, allowing them to be much more productive in the meantime.

Recognising these changes does allow choices in the way hedges are managed in the future. Hedges can be cut on a two or even three year rotation. Alternatively, perhaps only one or two of the three 'faces' (the top and the two sides) could be cut in any one year. This wouldn't stop road or drive side hedges being cut from both the safety and visual aspects but for the majority of hedges it would have two major benefits: it would take less time (and hence cost) and it would benefit wildlife! However, whatever pattern of cutting is adopted, "all hedges, except perhaps holly, will need laying or coppicing sooner or later because they will become thin at the base. This is the best form of long-term management" (*Devon's hedges: Conservation and management*, Devon County Council / Devon Hedge Group).

Once it was realised nationally that many thousands of kilometres of hedgerow were being lost annually and that something ought to be done about it, the Hedgerow Regulations (made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995) were introduced in England and Wales in 1997 to protect them. The Regulations are intended to prevent the removal of most countryside hedgerows without first submitting a hedgerow removal notice to the local planning authority. The local planning authorities are only able to require the retention of 'important' hedgerows. The Regulations then set out criteria to be used by the local authority in determining which hedgerows are important (Bickmore, 2002).

In such a clearly agricultural landscape, the hedgerows and hedgebanks represent continuity as features in the landscape and provide a significant wildlife resource at a time when the fields themselves are being more

intensively used. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK Steering Group, 1995) lists ancient and or species-rich hedgerows as one of its priority habitats.

#### Links to key habitats in Devon UK BAPs

- Species-rich hedges (Devon BAP) Hedgerows (UK BAP)



Hedges bordering Bridleway near Alston Cross



Closely trimmed farmland hedgerow

### **Churchyards**

Slapton parish church, St. James, dates from the late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> century and is Grade 1 listed. It is located in the centre of the village. There is a reasonably sized graveyard here surrounded by stone walls, on which grows a wide variety of plants, mosses and lichens. The gravestones also provide an important habitat for mosses and lichens. The grassland within the graveyard is managed by frequent cutting and it dominated by grasses such as Yorkshire fog, Red Fescue and Cock's-foot; but despite this there were small areas with more species-rich flora. During the site visit Greater Plantain, Common Daisy, Self-heal, Cuckooflower, Lesser Celandine, Ribwort Plantain,

and Creeping Cinquefoil were recorded growing here. A less frequent mowing regime could increase the church ground's wildlife potential for invertebrate, small mammal and reptile species by increasing the abundance of flowering plants. Black Spleenwort, Maidenhead Spleenwort, Red Valerian, Polypody and Mexican Fleabane were recorded during the visit on the churchwalls. The walls also provide habitat for invertebrates.

#### Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAPs

- Cities, towns and villages (Devon BAP);
- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)

### **Stone walls**

Stone walls surround the churchyard and most of the private gardens of Slapton including the old Chantry gardens. Many of the hedges around the village and parish are planted on stone-faced banks and have impressive growths of lichens, together with English Stonecrop, Navelwort, Black Spleenwort and Polypody growing on them. Stone walls are important for lichens, mosses and flowering plants and their crevices can provide value for invertebrates and reptiles.

#### Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAPs

- Cities, towns and villages (Devon BAP); Built up areas and garden (UK BAP broad habitat)

### **Recreation areas and public open space**

Away from the coast there is one area of public open space leased to the community known locally as 'White Close'. The grassland is leased and managed by the White Close Slapton Trust as grassland meadow and is available for local residents to enjoy as an area for informal recreation and play. White Close was not surveyed during the audit visit.

The parish council has installed benches on some of the wider road verges and there is a reasonable network of public footpaths and green lanes. Other than White Close there are few public areas within the village and in the north of the parish. This however is far outweighed by the presence of Slapton Ley NNR and Slapton Sands both of which have excellent public access with a series of trails popular with local residents and visitors alike. There are large areas of parking on Slapton Sands and both sites are within comfortable walking distance of the village via a direct footpath link.

The long distance South West Coast Footpath runs along Slapton Sands and many circular walks can be made using the Coast path, permissive paths within the reserve and the wider Rights of Way network (for example to

France Wood, and the villages of Stokenham and Torcross. Some of the parish's green lanes have been included in Valerie Belsey's books 'Discovering Green Lanes' and 'Exploring Green Lanes in the South Hams'. These walks will provide an opportunity for seeing a plethora of wildlife.

### **Allotments and gardens**

Gardens are a haven for wildlife and can provide links to other areas of wildlife habitat. There is a network of gardens in Slapton providing a habitat link with streams, churchyard, verges, woodlands, farmland and other important habitats within the surrounding area including Slapton Ley NNR.

#### **Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAPs**

- Cities, towns and villages (Devon BAP); Built up areas and garden (UK BAP broad habitat)

### **Redundant and traditional buildings**

Traditional buildings are present in the parish and can be important for a number of species including the Barn Owl and various Bat species. Probably the most familiar feature in Slapton village is the old Chantry Tower. The Collegiate Chantry of St Mary was founded in 1372 or 3 by Sir Guy de Brian. The Tower Inn and West tower remain and the tower has been designated by English Heritage as a grade I listed building. The West tower houses a locally famous colony of Jackdaws and also provides a roosting habitat for bats. The tower itself has been colonised by plants including ferns, mosses and lichens and will be a valuable habitat for invertebrates. The tower is not accessible to the public and so wildlife occupying the tower is undisturbed.

### **Rivers, Streams and Ponds**

The parish is bordered by two watercourses, the River Gara, which forms the eastern boundary of Slapton parish and Start Stream, which forms the western boundary. Slapton Stream is a spring fed short watercourse running through the centre of Slapton village via a network of leats down towards the Ley.

The River Gara has a wide catchment rising from Halwell several kilometres north of the parish. From here it flows south eastwards and then turns southwards before flowing to meet the Higher Ley below Strete Gate. The Gara has several tributaries many of which rise from springs on the upper ridges of Slapton parish. Start Stream has a far smaller catchment area. Both rivers provide an important feature and habitat for wildlife for the parish. The River Gara, Start Stream and Slapton Stream all feed freshwater into the Ley, South West England's largest natural freshwater lake. Otters have been recorded in the Ley. Sedimentation and eutrophication of the Ley have been major concerns linked to intensification of farming and increased soil erosion in recent years. Since 1988 many farms in the area have signed up to agri-

environment schemes including Countryside Stewardship and the Slapton catchment is one of 11 catchments included in the European Interreg Cycleau project (2004-2006) which aimed to improve water quality of the catchment area.

No ponds were recorded during the audit visit. Ponds do exist within the parish within private grounds (for example at Buckland Court holiday cottage complex) offering an important habitat for associated plant and animal species such as toads, frogs, invertebrates and aquatic plants.



The Gara River

#### Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAPs

- Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes (Devon BAP); Rivers (UK BAP)
- Ponds (UK BAP)

#### **Roadside verges**

Roadside verges often support flower-rich grassland, as well as a variety of other semi-natural habitats. They may also support populations of scarce or declining species of flora and/or fauna, some of which enjoy statutory protection. Linear grassland habitats provide a valuable wildlife resource. Verges provide shelter and food for a variety of species from small mammals, to birds of prey and insects.

Devon has a very substantial resource of roadside verges, with approximately 14000 km of roads, corresponding to about 2000 ha of roadside verge. However, of this very large resource, the area that is species-rich is relatively small and localised in distribution.

Devon County Council and Highways Agency manage roadside verges to incorporate prescriptions to maintain or enhance wildlife interests. Devon County Council operate a Special Verge Scheme to manage areas of particular wildlife or amenity value. These verges are protected from

damaging activities, and grass cutting is limited to specific periods to avoid the destruction of attractive stands of wildflowers.

The most major road running through the parish is the A379 coast road. The entire stretch of A379 within the parish is on the shingle bar which is a rare and important habitat within its own right. Some of the minor roads around the edges of the villages have wide grass verges which can be important corridors associated with hedges.

#### Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAPs

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)
- Bare Shingle, Vegetated Coastal Shingle (UK BAP)

### **Unimproved grassland**

Flower-rich meadows and pastures are a habitat of conservation concern in Devon and are listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as well as the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Unimproved neutral grassland habitat has undergone a huge decline in the 20th century, almost entirely due to changing agricultural practice. It is estimated that by 1984 in lowland England and Wales, semi-natural grassland had declined by 97% over the previous 50 years to approximately 0.2 million ha.

Unimproved grassland is often very flower-rich and as a result of this attracts an abundance of butterflies and other invertebrates. The rich insect life in turn attracts bats such as the greater horseshoe bat and birds such as the green woodpecker.

There are a number of areas of unimproved and semi-improved neutral grasslands within the parish. Some of these have been identified and classified as County Wildlife Sites; some areas have not yet been surveyed but are identified by DBRC as being Unconfirmed CWS (for example land at New Barn, a small section of which has been improved since identified as a possible CWS).

An area of grassland to the north of Slapton village has been leased to the local community. Known as 'White Close' this area was traditionally grazed by livestock including pigs and is now sensitively managed as grass meadow and public open space.

#### Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAPs

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)

### **Woodlands**

Slapton is not a heavily wooded parish, but there are several areas of important woodland, mainly in the river and stream valleys of the parish

concentrated largely along the east and west parish boundaries. These are mainly semi-natural mixed broadleaved woodlands, and include Slapton Wood which is part of the NNR and SSSI. Comprising mainly oak and sweet chestnut, Slapton Wood which is considered a damp wood is a sanctuary area on the reserve and an important site for lower plants (mosses, lichens, liverworts and fungi). Other woods include Burlestone, Buckland and Leader Woods CWS, Orestone Wood CWS, Strete Marsh CWS, Goldswell Quarry CWS and Coleridge Place CWS. DBRC has identified woodland at Gara Mill as an Other Site of Wildlife Interest (OSWI) which are sites of significant wildlife interest within a local context that have been surveyed but do not reach the criteria for County Wildlife Site.

Slapton Wood, Leader Wood, Buckland Wood and Burlestone Wood are all identified in the Ancient Woodland Inventory (the sites being in existence for more than 400 years). Lowland mixed deciduous woodlands are in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats list.

Associated species include abundant ferns (including Lady Fern, Male Fern and Soft shield fern), Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, Oak, Beech, Greater Woodrush and Lesser Periwinkle). Animal species include badgers and rare species of crane fly and beetle.

#### Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAPs

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

#### **Veteran trees**

English Nature (now Natural England) has defined veteran trees as: "trees that are of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of their age, size or condition". In relation to oak it has been taken that any trees with a diameter at breast height of more than:

- 1.0m are potentially interesting
- 1.5m are valuable in terms of conservation
- 2.0m are truly ancient.

Veteran trees will be at least as big as these measurements (these figures refer to girth at breast height and not to diameter):

- 1 metre - Hawthorn, Blackthorn
- 2.5 metres - Field Maple, Rowan, Yew, Birch, Holly
- 3 metres - Oak, Ash, Scots Pine, Alder
- 4.5 metres - Sycamore, limes, chestnuts, elms, poplars, Beech, willows, pines, non-native trees.

It has been estimated that Britain may be home to around 80% of Europe's ancient trees. Veteran trees are large old trees found in wood-pasture and parkland, but also in a number of other locations: ancient yews in churchyards; mature oaks in hedgerows; black poplars along stream-sides; and many noble trees in ancient woodlands.

Ancient trees support particularly rich assemblages of invertebrates, fungi, mosses and lichens. Several species of bat may use hollow trees as roosting sites and birds such as tree creepers and woodpeckers feed on the insects living in the bark. Insects such as stag beetles and hornets are associated with old trees.

Although the number of visible veteran trees within the parish is low, there is an interesting row of roadside large beech trees close to Buckland Court near to the public footpath to Buckland cross. There is an even larger Beech next to the road to the north of Buckland Court which could provide interesting habitat for invertebrates, bird and bat species.



Ancient Beech near Buckland Court

### Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAPs

- Parkland, wood pasture (Devon BAP)

### **Green lanes**

A green lane can be defined as an unmetalled track with field boundaries either side. These boundaries may be banks, hedges, woodland edge, stone walls or fences and often features such as ditches or streams are incorporated within the lanes.

The combination of the track, its boundaries and associated features create a landscape unit with its own microclimate and ecology. These sheltered conditions within lanes are of great importance to butterfly populations and may be more botanically species-rich than single hedge boundaries.

There are a number of footpaths with hedges either side, some of which run along the routes of possible sunken old lanes. These together with some green lanes, such as the one running from Start to Harlestone, support a range of plant species, such as Primrose, Hart's-tongue, Lords-and-ladies, Red Campion and Dog's Mercury. Green lanes are particularly attractive in the spring months with carpets of 'spring bank' flora. Some of the green lanes within the parish have been described in Valerie Belsey's book 'Discovering Green Lanes'.

#### Links to Devon and UK BAPs

**Key habitats:**

- Species-rich hedges (Devon BAP);
- Hedgerows (UK BAP)

**Key species:**

- Dormouse (UK BAP, Devon BAP)



Green lane between Battle Ford and Start

## **Pits, quarries and cuttings**

Goldswell Quarry (disused) is marked on the map and is identified as a CWS by DBRC for its mixed woodland and scrub interest. It was not possible to access or view the quarry on the site visit. Historically the quarry was used to supply hardcore for the original Turnpike which became known locally as the Slapton Line which now forms part of A379 coast road linking Kingsbridge to Dartmouth. Quarries are often grown over with vegetation and can be useful for wildlife for food and shelter for animals and providing a link to other features such as hedgerows. Pits, quarries and cuttings are listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as habitats of conservation concern in Devon.

### **Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAPs**

- Pits, quarries and cuttings (Devon BAP)

## **Other possible habitats**

A number of cereal arable fields were recorded on the upper plateau of the parish, many of which at the time of the survey were down to winter stubble. Arable areas of the parish have been identified as potentially important Cirl Bunting habitat and many of the arable fields included in agri-environmental schemes will be managed with this in mind. Arable fields can support a number of rare arable weeds and this is usually in association with spring cereals and winter stubble observed during the site visit. Associated field margins can be particularly important.

Away from the upper plateau of the parish the fields slope down to the Gara valley in the east and Start valley in the West. Some of the smaller fields above the steep wooded valley sides have succeeded to scrub (with shrubs including hawthorn, gorse and blackthorn) providing an interesting habitat for invertebrates and birds.

No parklands or orchards were seen during the visit, though there was evidence of former orchards in gardens in and around Slapton village that were once numerous until recent decades. Traditional orchards have great cultural and landscape importance and can be very valuable habitats for a wide range of species from fungi and lichens, through insects and other invertebrates, to birds and mammals.

### **Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAPs**

- Arable and horticulture (UK BAP broad habitat)
- Scrub (UK BAP broad habitat)
- Lowland wood pasture and parkland (UK BAP)

## **Unconfirmed County Wildlife Sites (UWS)**

The Devon Biodiversity Records Centre has identified two Unconfirmed County Wildlife Sites in or bordering Slapton parish. Broadstone Point is a mixed area of farmland with bird interest and maybe of possible habitat interest to the Cirl Bunting. The other UWS is at Lower Coltscombe, an area of semi-improved neutral grassland on a valley side within the Start catchment. These are sites identified as having possible interest but which have not been fully surveyed. Access was not possible during this survey. Some of these sites may contain areas of significant wildlife interest and further surveys will have to be done to determine whether they are of sufficient quality to be designated. The Unconfirmed County Wildlife Sites identified by DBRC, along with an associated map showing their locations, are also listed in Appendix 1.

## **Other Sites of Wildlife Interest**

These are sites of significant wildlife interest within a local context that have been surveyed but do not reach the criteria for County Wildlife Sites. They are not covered by Planning Policy Statement 9 but may be included in Local Plans. OSWIs in the parish are listed in Appendix 1.

## **Species**

### **Important species**

A report from the DBRC database showing which legally protected, locally notable (e.g. otter) or noteworthy (e.g. Great Green Bush Cricket) species are known to have been present in and around Slapton is presented separately (Appendix 1). Appendix 2 gives the species noted during this survey. It should be borne in mind that January is not the ideal season to carry out biodiversity surveys as some species will not be visible at this time of the year and a further survey at a more appropriate time of the year is recommended.

### **Birds**

Slapton Ley SSSI and NRR is one of Devon's most important sites for breeding, overwintering and migrant passage birds and is one of the reasons why the site has been designated. Several studies have been undertaken with a full species list compiled by Dennis Elphick from 35 years of bird ringing and observations between 1960 and 1995. Over 160 species are recorded. UK BAP priority species found at Slapton include: Bittern, Reed Bunting, Marsh Tit, House Sparrow, Cirl Bunting, Yellowhammer, Song Thrush, Starling, Bullfinch, Linnets, Stonechat, Grasshopper Warbler, Kingfisher and Skylark. One or two Bitterns overwinter at Slapton Ley and the site is used as a staging post for Pied and White Wagtails. Flocks of 50,000 – 100,000 Starlings have been known to roost in Ireland Bay's and cold snaps bring in Bearded Tits from elsewhere in lowland England. Notable species of waterfowl include Mute Swan, Gadwall, Water Rail, Great Crested Grebe, Grey Heron, Tufted Duck and Coot.

Devon BAP priority species recorded within the parish include: Barn Owl, Cirl Bunting, Curlew and Night Jar.

There is a colony of Jackdaws in the Chantry Tower in the village. Garden birds recorded in the village include Bullfinch and Song Thrush both of which are UK BAP priority species.

### **Plants**

Plant species recorded during site visits to the parish in January 2009 are listed in Appendix 2. Due to the time of year the range of species recorded is very limited. Slapton Ley SSSI and NRR is however very well recorded with Slapton Field Studies Centre located on the edge of Slapton village not far from the site. A full plant species list for Slapton Ley has been put together by Brookes and Burns (1969) and includes 490 species of vascular plants and almost 200 species of mosses and liverworts including Southern Grey lichen. Slapton Ley is notable for its shingle plant communities which include Thrift, Viper's Bugloss and Yellow Horned-poppy. Slapton is the only known remaining UK site for Strapwort *Corrigiola litoralis* found on the Ley shore.

Two Devon BAP priority plant species (Golden-hair-lichen and Primrose) have been recorded in the parish.

Golden hair-lichen is one of four Red Data Book species of lichen which have been recorded within Slapton Ley.

Primrose *Primula vulgaris* can be seen in many places in the parish. It is listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as it is intended to help to raise public awareness of the need to conserve commonplace and characteristic elements of Devon's countryside. Primrose is not rare in Devon, but it may act as an indicator species to the health of Devon's environment, and by conserving the primrose, we may help to conserve some of the habitats in which it is found. These include woodlands, hedges, road verges and churchyards.

Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* seen in various locations, is protected against sale under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Schedule 8 (S).

Japanese Knotweed is an invasive alien plant and has been recorded within the NNR as recently as 2008. This is currently being managed by Reserve staff within SSSI guidelines.

## **Mammals**

Mammal species recorded within Slapton parish include Wood Mouse, Bank Vole, Field Vole, Common Shrew, House Mouse, Yellow Necked Mouse, Harvest Mouse, Water Shrew, Otter and Dormouse.

The Dormouse is listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as a species of conservation concern in Devon and is a priority species in the UK BAP. Nationally, the Dormouse has experienced a marked contraction in range in recent decades, and has become extinct in up to seven counties where it occurred in the last century, representing about half of its former range.

In Devon, the dormouse appears to be holding its own, and the county is now a major stronghold of the species. However, no detailed quantification of population change has been possible, due to lack of comparable data over time. Having said this, indirect evidence, from the losses of hedgerow length and declines in quality of hedgerows and woodlands that have occurred in the county over the past few decades, suggests that dormice may have declined in a similar fashion.

As a result of their rarity caused by the loss/fragmentation of their habitat, changes in woodland management and the lack of knowledge concerning their distribution a National Monitoring Programme was set up. The FSC are members of the Dormice National Monitoring Programme. This involves putting up dormouse boxes on trees or shrubs in various locations around the reserve in areas that are considered to be suitable Dormouse habitat i.e. where Bramble, Hazel and Honeysuckle are in plentiful supply as these are essential elements of Dormouse ecology. A dormouse box is very similar to a

bird box in size and appearance, except that the entrance hole is on the back as the dormice live in trees. These boxes are then checked monthly between April and November by a licensed agent, (as they are a protected species) making a note of the contents. If a Dormouse is present it must be weighed and sexed before returning it to its home.

The monitoring programme collates data from all over the UK, with the aim to get long-term data indicating variations in populations annually, in various habitats.

A number of Bat species have been recorded. These include: Pipistrelle, Whiskered and Lesser Horseshoe which roost in buildings around Slapton village and use Slapton Ley as a feeding ground. Noctule, Daubenton's, Natterer's and Long-Eared bats have been recorded around the reserve and are known to roost in trees. Daubenton's are also known to roost in buildings and under bridges.

All species of British bat are protected under UK law and international law. This makes it illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take a bat, or to damage, obstruct or destroy any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection.

Buildings are the most favoured roost sites and more than half of known roosts are in buildings less than 30 years old. Pipistrelles prefer to roost in very confined spaces around the outside of the building, typical sites being behind hanging tiles, weather boarding, soffit and barge or eaves boarding, between roofing felt and roof tiles or in cavity walls. Pipistrelles rarely enter roof spaces except in the more stable, well-established large colonies found particularly in older buildings.

There is a known Otter holt in the Higher Ley. The Otter is listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as a species of conservation concern and is a UK BAP priority species. Formerly widespread throughout the UK, the Otter underwent a rapid decline in numbers from the 1950s to 1970s and was effectively lost from midland and south-eastern counties of England by the 1980s. Populations remain in Wales, south-west England and much of Scotland, where sea loch and coastal colonies comprise one of the largest populations in Europe. There is also a significant population of Otters in Northern Ireland. The decline now appears to have halted and sightings are being reported in former habitats. Devon has an internationally important Otter population and Otters are now found on most watercourses and wetlands throughout the County. Otters are even now recolonising areas where they were thought to have been lost during the 60's and 70's.

Hedgehogs have been recorded within the parish and are listed in the UK BAP priority species list.

### **Marine mammals**

There is a huge variety of large marine animals that live in the seas off Devon and Cornwall, including a resident population of Bottlenose Dolphins, but also

Common Dolphins, Whales and Basking Sharks, and these are occasionally spotted off the north Devon coast. The species most likely to be seen are Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphins.

Unfortunately, this part of the coast can see dead marine mammals, particularly Harbour Porpoise, washed up (stranded) on the shore as a result of being accidentally caught in fishing nets – known as bycatch. Most bycatch strandings in the south-west occur in Cornwall or south Devon. Should you find one please let Devon Wildlife Trust (01392 279244) know about it, as valuable information may be gleaned from stranded animals.

## **Invertebrates**

Due to the time of year of the site visit no invertebrates were recorded during the site visit. There have been a number of detailed invertebrate studies including moth trapping, butterfly transects and studies of beetle. Species lists are held in the FSC library and some are detailed on the FSC website. The fen, carr and woodland areas are an important habitat for moth species and provides a feeding ground for bats. Notable moths species recorded include: Jersey Tiger, Lime Hawkmoth, and Square-spot Rustic. Crane-fly and several species of beetle are also noted. The shingle ridge is associated with swarms of Chironomid midges which form the main part of the Cetti's Warbler diet. Glow worm, Clouded Yellow butterfly and Southern Hawker dragonfly have all recorded around the shingle ridge. Common Blue and Painted Lady are amongst butterflies recorded around the Reserve. Slapton Woods being a sanctuary area with large amounts of deadwood and wet woodland is of particular importance to several classes of invertebrates including beetles and rare species of crane-fly.

Elsewhere within the parish DBRC has records of the UK BAP priority butterfly species, Wall Brown. The gardens, walls and buildings of the village and surrounding areas all provide interesting invertebrate habitat. Great Green Bush Cricket, a Devon BAP priority species, has been recorded in gardens.

Dragonfly and damselflies include Ruddy Darter, Keeled Skimmer and Hairy Dragonfly all recorded within the SSSI.

## **Reptiles and amphibians**

There are records held with DBRC of Slow-worm, Common Frog, Common Toad located in gardens in Slapton. Species recorded in the SSSI include Common Frog, Common Toad, Smooth Newt, Palmate Newt, Grass Snake, Adder, Slow-worm and Common Lizard.

## **The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (Devon BAP).**

The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan describes the key actions needed to look after 37 of Devon's most important habitats and species. It does not stand alone, but is part of a much wider process aimed at conserving our biodiversity.

The Devon BAP is a direct descendent of a process started at the famous 'Earth Summit' held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At this summit, world leaders pledged to halt and reverse the loss of the planet's biodiversity. For its part, the UK government produced a series of action plans for a great many threatened habitats and species. These national plans have been joined by a series of regional action plans aimed at providing a more local perspective.

The Devon BAP builds on this endeavour, identifying local priorities and providing targets and plans of action for the County.

All of this work has one aim: to encourage practical action on the ground. Its success depends upon us all.

### **Biodiversity links:**

- The Devon BAP can be viewed at [www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity). This site also contains links to other nature conservation issues relevant to Devon, such as information on hedges. If you do not have access to the internet and require paper copies of relevant sections of the Devon BAP please contact Devon County Council's Biodiversity Officer on 01392 382804.
- Details of biodiversity planning in the south-west region can be viewed at [www.swbiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.swbiodiversity.org.uk).
- National Action Plans can be viewed at [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk). This site also contains useful background information on UK biodiversity action planning.

## Links between the main wildlife habitats of Slapton and the Devon and UK Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP)

Slapton wildlife feature	Brief description of feature	Link with the Devon BAP	Link with the UK BAP
Shingle bar (seaward, top and backslope)	Bare and vegetated shingle barrier beach		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal vegetated shingle</li> </ul>
Freshwater Lagoon Reedbeds Swamp/fen/carr and grazing marsh	Freshwater lake with reedbeds around the outer shore areas. Sedimented area of lake succeeded to swamp/fen/carr woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater Reed Habitat Action Plan</li> <li>• Grazing Marsh Habitat Action Plan</li> <li>• Golden-hair lichen Species Action Plan</li> <li>• Otter Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eutrophic Standing</li> <li>• Reedbeds</li> </ul>
Broadleaved Woodland	Secondary broadleaved woodland Ancient Semi-Natural woodland Ancient oak woodland Wet woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oak Woodland Habitat Action Plan</li> <li>• Greater Horseshoe bat species Action Plan</li> <li>• Dormouse Species Action Plan</li> <li>• Primrose Species Action Plan</li> <li>• Golden-hair lichen Species Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland mixed deciduous woodland</li> </ul>
Traditional hedges	Extensive network of traditional hedges throughout the parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species-rich Hedges Habitat Action Plan</li> <li>• Primrose Species Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient and/or species rich hedgerows</li> </ul>
Grassland: unimproved grassland and grass verges	Areas of semi-improved and unimproved grassland, which have been protected from agricultural improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flower-rich Meadows and Pastures Habitat Action Plan</li> <li>• Primrose Species Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arable field margins</li> </ul>
Rivers, streams and ponds	River Gara, Start Stream and Slapton Woods Stream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes Habitat Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rivers Habitat Action Plan</li> <li>• Ponds Habitat Action Plan</li> </ul>

View the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan at [www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity)

## **Some Ideas for Local Action...**

A major step towards knowing what you can do for your local wildlife and geology is to know what you have already got. This report will help you in this, but it is just a start. Ultimately, the protection and enhancement of the local natural environment requires the interest and enthusiasm of the local community.

There follow some initial ideas for local nature conservation action. Many of them will directly help to achieve the objectives of the habitat and species action plans contained in the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan.

It is by no means an exhaustive list. As a community, you may have many more ideas for action that you would like to take forward in the coming years.

### **1 Further surveys:**

From a biodiversity records perspective Slapton parish is in a unique position in Devon. Being home to Slapton Ley (FSC)-NNR and SSSI it is probably one of the most studied and documented parishes in the UK. Complete listings of all species and habitat records that are known to exist for Slapton Ley and surrounding areas are held in the FSC resource library. Much of this data can be viewed on the FSC website.

This report is intended to give the local community an overview of the biodiversity interest of the parish. Although there is a huge wealth of data already available for Slapton Ley, other areas of the parish remain largely unsurveyed. Carrying out further survey within your area will help build a better picture of the wildlife present, and of the opportunities for enhancement. Gaining a better understanding of the resource is usually a key objective of the Devon BAP's habitat and species action plans.

Specific features to survey in Slapton might include hedges and for otter signs. These actions would directly contribute to the species-rich hedges habitat and the otter species action plans.

It might be useful, for example, to undertake a hedgerow survey and produce a hedgerow appraisal for your local area. Comparing the current distribution of hedges against boundary lines shown on old maps will give a clue as to how this important resource has changed over recent years. It may also highlight opportunities for restoring hedges in your area. It might also be possible to assess the condition of hedges and this may, in turn, give some ideas about improving their future management to benefit wildlife.

Survey work could be undertaken as a community group or in liaison with the Field Studies Centre and other conservation groups already active within the parish. For example, Seaquest South-West is a joint project bringing together several independent researchers within the Cornwall and Devon Wildlife Trusts to find out more about marine life. To find out more or to submit records of marine animal sightings contact the above address or view:

[www.dbrc.org.uk/seaquest-southwest/](http://www.dbrc.org.uk/seaquest-southwest/)

Operation Otter is an initiative organised by the Devon Wildlife Trust which aims to monitor and protect Devon's otter population with the help of volunteers. For more information: [www.dbrc.org.uk/operation-otter/](http://www.dbrc.org.uk/operation-otter/)

In addition, you can help to build up a picture of the state of Devon's environment by sending your records to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre where they can be properly collated. There is surprisingly few records for the parish, so any records (including 'who', 'where', 'what' and 'when') of any species recognised is useful.

[www.dbrc.org.uk](http://www.dbrc.org.uk)

e-mail: [dbrc@devonwildlifetrust.org](mailto:dbrc@devonwildlifetrust.org)

Devon Biodiversity Records Centre  
c/o Exeter Central Library  
Castle Street  
Exeter  
EX4 3PQ

Tel. (01392) 274128

## **2 Influence the management of public open space:**

Outside of the NNR, Slapton parish has few public spaces within and around the village. However those that do exist have considerable value for wildlife. White Close is a valuable area of grassland leased to the community for recreational enjoyment and already benefits from a high level of community involvement with input from FSC and NNR staff.

There are a number of valuable florally diverse Devon hedgebanks and roadside verges with the parish. Wood Lane leading from the village towards Slapton Woods is a good example of a species rich green lane.

Biodiversity within the churchyard could be enhanced by allowing some of the grass around the perimeter and in the corners to be cut just once in the summer. This will encourage a greater diversity of flowering plants and thus a greater diversity of invertebrates. Wildflower bulbs, for example Bluebell and Ramson, from a specialist seed merchant could be planted within the church grounds.

## **3 Build relationships with local landowners:**

Encourage the adoption of more wildlife-friendly land management. For example, hedges that are cut only every other year in later winter will provide an autumn and winter source of nuts and berries for birds and small mammals (and can save the landowner money in management costs). The improved

management of hedgerows is a key objective of the Species-rich Hedges Habitat Action Plan. If the owner is willing, why not get involved with practical management, such as traditional hedge laying or pond restoration?

#### **4 Adopt a road verge:**

Many verges can have a significant value for wildlife because they have escaped the intensive management of the surrounding farmland. Ensuring such verges are managed for their wildlife is a very positive step, again contributing to the Flower-rich Meadows and Pastures Habitat Action Plan.

There are, of course, obvious health and safety implications to roadside management. It is an action that would need to be undertaken in close liaison with the relevant highways authority (generally, this is the Highways Agency for motorways and trunk roads, and Devon County Council for all other roads).

#### **5 Wildlife gardening:**

Residents in Slapton already participate in the Devon Open Gardens Scheme. You could also 'green up' your garden. Collectively the gardens of Slapton represent a significant area that could be used to benefit wildlife. The proximity of the river to many of the gardens is an added bonus. Large or small, you can turn your garden (or a part of it) into a haven for wildlife. There are some very good sources of information on wildlife gardening:

- The Natural England web site:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/advice/wildlifegardening/](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/advice/wildlifegardening/)

Natural England is the Government's adviser on nature conservation. Its web site also contains links to a number of other very useful sources of information.

- The Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) web site:

[www.devonwildlifetrust.org/wildlife-gardening/](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/wildlife-gardening/)

#### **6 Join local conservation organisations:**

The FSC uses a number of volunteers to help with practical management to help with species monitoring and the collection of data. The parish also has its own voluntary tree warden. Devon Wildlife Trust uses volunteers for both practical work and monitoring. There are a number of local membership groups specialising in specific interests (for example Devon Fungus Group and Devon Mammal Group) which frequently carry out surveys and studies, hold talks and training sessions for volunteers and members.

## **7 Community involvement in the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

Further information about the South Devon AONB, the Management Strategy and Action Plan and details of how your local community can become involved can be found at: [www.southdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk) or telephone the South Devon AONB unit on (01803) 861384.

## **8 Link biodiversity to Slapton Parish Plan:**

Slapton Parish Council has a Parish Appraisal produced in 2000. You could encourage future Parish Plans to consider further the impact on the biodiversity and wildlife of the parish.

## **9 Japanese Knotweed:**

Not something to cherish, but it can't be ignored! Unfortunately Japanese Knotweed is present within Slapton parish. Introduced into Britain by the Victorians, Japanese Knotweed is a native of Japan, north China, Korea and Taiwan. It flourishes in Britain's mild and fertile environment and has no natural biological enemies here. Consequently, it is very invasive and can overrun large areas, replacing our native flora. It is a serious pest which can be so vigorous as to cause significant damage to buildings and roads. It is also a difficult plant to eradicate.

For these reasons Japanese Knotweed is listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as a plant that is not to be planted or otherwise introduced into the wild. In addition, all parts of the plant are considered as controlled waste under the Waste Regulations.

What can you do?

- Firstly, it is important to build up a picture of where Japanese Knotweed is present. This will give an idea of the scale of the problem and will help to prevent it being accidentally spread during any ditch clearance, highway work and so on. To help develop an understanding of the problem in Devon, records should also be sent to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre<sup>1</sup>. Ideally, records should include when you first saw it and confirmation of when it was seen most recently; its precise location (notes or a sketch map are helpful, as is a grid reference if you have one); the kind of habitat it is in (e.g. next to running water, on a road verge), and a rough indication of how abundant it is. For more information on reporting Japanese knotweed, see here:

[www.devon.gov.uk/recording\\_knotweed.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/recording_knotweed.htm)

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<sup>1</sup> DBRC, E-mail: [dbrc@devonwildlifetrust.org](mailto:dbrc@devonwildlifetrust.org)

- Secondly, be careful not to spread the plant further. This is all too easily done as it can regenerate from even the smallest fragment and is easy to spread unknowingly. It is important not to flail it or to try and dig it up. Often, it is best not to cut Japanese Knotweed at all, but if it is it should be very carefully disposed of on site when dead or removed as Controlled Waste. Any tools used should be properly cleaned.
- Finally, if Japanese Knotweed is on your land, the best way to prevent its spread is to control or eradicate it as soon as possible. Regular cutting can weaken and eventually kill the plant but it is a time-consuming job and proper disposal of the cut material can be a problem. Usually, the most effective method of control is to treat the plant with herbicide. This can take a number of years to be successful but if the plant is left untreated it will inevitably spread. A number of issues should be taken into account in deciding which herbicide to use, particularly the presence of water (where special care needs to be taken and the advice of the Environment Agency must be sought).

Fortunately, a great deal of advice (including an Environment Agency Code of Practice) is available on the Devon Knotweed Forum's web pages. You are recommended to view these at:

[www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity/japanese\\_knotweed](http://www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity/japanese_knotweed)

## Useful sources of further information:

The following organisations can offer advice and information on various wildlife topics as well as organising events and carrying out projects.

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers: [www.btcv.org.uk](http://www.btcv.org.uk)

British Dragonfly Society: [www.dragonflysoc.org.uk](http://www.dragonflysoc.org.uk)

Butterfly Conservation: [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org) (Tel: 0870 7744309)

Devon Bat Group: [www.dbg.me.uk](http://www.dbg.me.uk)

Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society: [www.devonbirds.org](http://www.devonbirds.org)

Devon Mammal Group: [www.devonmammalgroup.org](http://www.devonmammalgroup.org)

Devon Wildlife Trust: [www.devonwildlifetrust.org](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org) (Tel: 01392 279244)

Natural England: [www.naturalengland.org.uk/](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/)  
(Tel: 01392 889770)

Natural England: [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk) (Tel: 0845 600 3078)

Plantlife: [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk) (Tel: 01722 342730)

RSPB: [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

The Woodland Trust: [www.woodland-trust.org.uk](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk) (Tel: 01476 581111)

The Living Churchyards & Cemeteries Project, Arthur Rank Centre, National Agricultural Society, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ Tel: 01203 696969 ext.364/339.

In addition, Devon County Council has produced a Community Wildlife Toolkit which is available via the DCC web site ([www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity)). This toolkit aims to provide practical advice on management to encourage wildlife and, in particular, provides a central point from which to access the large amount of advice that is already available from a huge range of other organisations.

In addition to management advice, the toolkit provides guidance on seeking funding for project work.

## Possible sources of funding:

*Please note that funding sources change quite frequently and are often short lived. It is worth exploring widely what may be available. However, the sources listed below should provide a good starting point.*

Heritage Link – a funding directory supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. A good source of information.

<http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/fundingdirectory/main/fundinghome.php>

## Major sources of funding

Environmental Stewardship – whole farm agri-environment scheme funding.

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx)

SITA Trust - Enriching Nature: for biodiversity conservation projects within ten miles of any landfill site in England.

[www.sitatrust.org.uk](http://www.sitatrust.org.uk)

GrantScape – significant sums of money often available for biodiversity action, including landscape-scale projects.

[www.grantscape.org.uk/home](http://www.grantscape.org.uk/home)

The Tubney Charitable Trust – large funds available but on an invitation-to-bid only basis.

[www.tubney.org.uk](http://www.tubney.org.uk)

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation – no maximum size of grant. “Priority will be given to high quality projects that are exemplars of good practice or imaginative approaches to old problems, that have wider impact, leading to changes in the law, policy or practice or that may be viewed as difficult to support or too 'high risk' by other funders.”

[www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk](http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk)

Big Lottery Fund – “Every year BIG gives out millions of pounds from the National Lottery to good causes. Our money goes to community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment.” Often has large programmes relating to the environment, for example:

- *Changing Spaces: Access to Nature* - grants: £50,000 - £715,000. This programme aims to encourage more people to enjoy the outdoors, particularly those who face social exclusion.

[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_cs\\_access\\_nature?regioncode=uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_cs_access_nature?regioncode=uk)

- *Changing Spaces: Community Places* - grants: £10,000 - £450,000. This programme will fund community groups who want to improve local green spaces such as play areas, community gardens and parks.  
[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_cs\\_comm\\_spaces?regioncode=-uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_cs_comm_spaces?regioncode=-uk)

## Possible funding for smaller projects

It should be noted that many of these grants only have a finite pot of money and this could run out at any time. It is also important to check that your project meets any relevant funding criteria. Please check with the different organisations before applying.

Big Lottery Fund (see above) – BIG also gives smaller grants, for example:

- *Awards for All England* - Grants: £300 - £10,000. 'Awards for All gives money to projects that encourage people to take part in arts, sport, heritage and also community projects'.  
[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_a4a\\_eng?regioncode=-uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_a4a_eng?regioncode=-uk)

### **New for 2010 – International Year of Biodiversity**

#### Big Lottery Fund / BBC – Community Wildlife Fund

Grants of between £300 and 10,000 for projects that:

- improve rural or urban environments for people to enjoy
- get people more active and healthier

[http://www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_community\\_wildlife?regioncode=-uk](http://www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_community_wildlife?regioncode=-uk)

#### AONB Sustainable Development Funds -

- Blackdown Hills
- East Devon
- North Devon
- South Devon
- Tamar Valley

Biffawards - grants for biodiversity projects within 10 miles of a Biffa operation (landfill)

[www.biffaward.org/projects/smallgrants.php](http://www.biffaward.org/projects/smallgrants.php)

BBC Breathing Places – currently only available for projects that have reviewed Breathing Places funding already. Grants of £1000 to £5000 available.

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_breathingplaces](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_breathingplaces)

SITA Trust - Enriching Nature: for biodiversity conservation projects within ten miles of any landfill site in England.

[www.sitatrust.org.uk](http://www.sitatrust.org.uk)

Forestry Commission - grants and sources of funding available for improving biodiversity (for example, the Woodland Improvement Grant).

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4u4j28](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4u4j28)

Tree Council - small grants for schools and communities for tree planting schemes.

[www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=grants](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=grants)

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[www.devonwildlifetrust.org](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org)  
[www.natureonthemap.org.uk](http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk)  
[www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)  
[www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk)  
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[www.swbiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.swbiodiversity.org.uk)  
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[www.southdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk)

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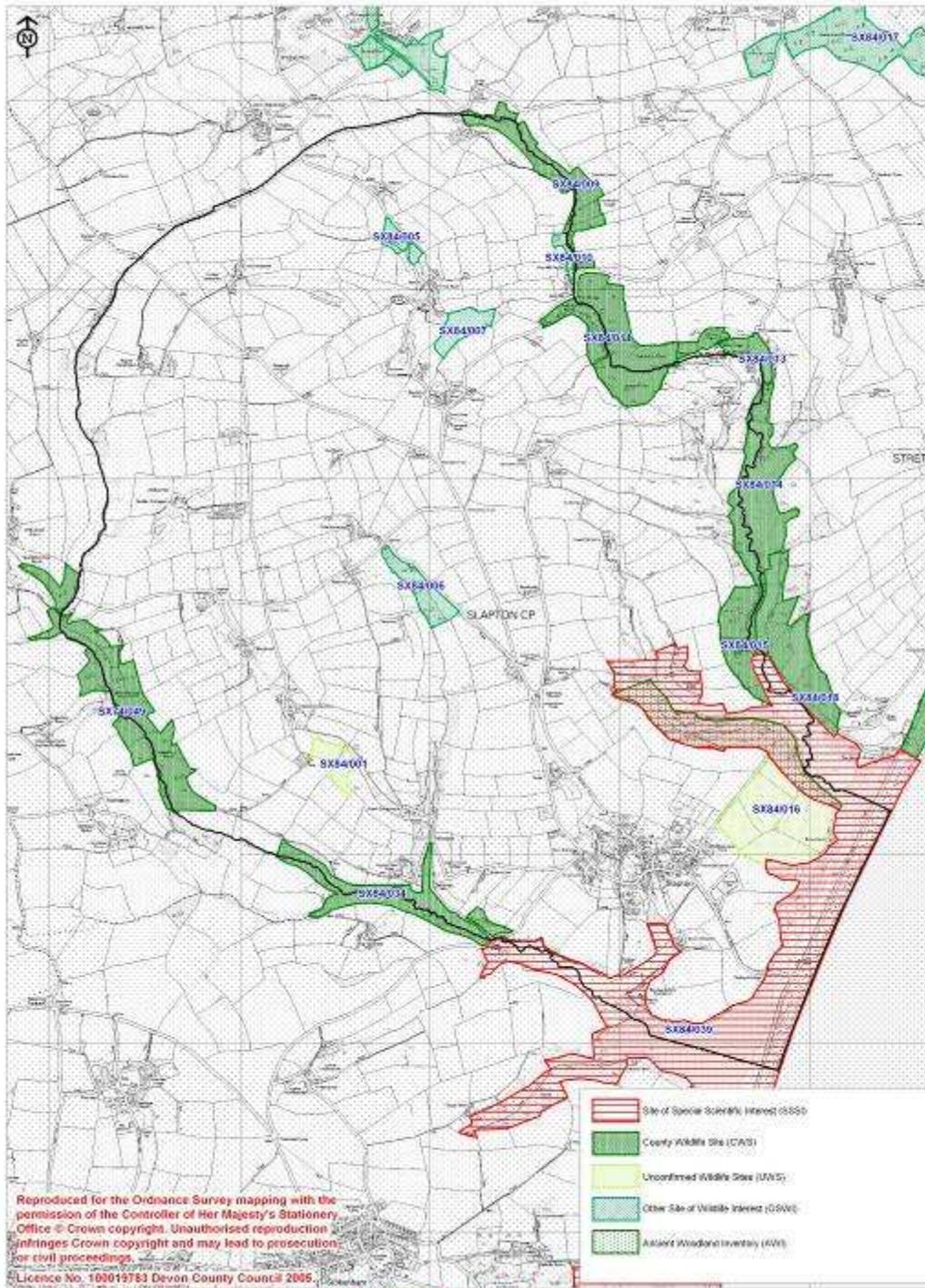
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# Appendix 1 – Notable sites and species within and around Slapton Parish.

Statutory & non-statutory sites within Slapton Parish, South Hams (2008)



## Wildlife Sites within Slapton Parish

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status
SX84/039	Slapton Ley	SX 824441	221.8	Freshwater lake, swamp, carr woodland and coastland habitats	SSSI
SX74/049	Alston Wash & Battleford Wood	SX795455	22.8	Broadleaved woodland, unimproved & semi-improved neutral grassland & scrub	CWS
SX84/009	Merricombe	SX815487	11.7	Secondary broadleaved woodland, marshy & semi-improved neutral grassland	CWS
SX84/011	Burlestone & Leader Woods	SX820477	23.1	Ancient semi-natural woodland partly replanted with broadleaves	CWS
SX84/013	Quack Meadow & Orestone Wood	SX827477	3.1	Unimproved neutral grassland & secondary broadleaved woodland	CWS
SX84/014	Strete Marsh	SX827470	19.8	Marshy grassland, reedbed, scrub & secondary broadleaved woodland	CWS
SX84/015	Goldswell Quarry	SX826462	9.4	Mixed woodland & scrub	CWS
SX84/018	Coleridge Place	SX829461	17.2	Secondary broadleaved woodland, scrub & semi-improved neutral grassland	CWS

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status
SX84/034	Start	SX807447 & SX813446	15	Marshy, unimproved & semi-improved neutral grassland, carr woodland, reedbed & tall herb vegetation	CWS
SX84/016	Broadstone Point	SX889451	22	Mixed farmland with bird interest	UWS
SX84/001	Lower Coltscombe	SX805455	3.3	Semi-improved neutral grassland	UWS
SX84/005	Torr Farm	SX808483	2	Marshy & semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI
SX84/006	New Barn	SX810464	5.1	Unimproved & semi-improved neutral grassland & secondary broadleaved woodland	OSWI
SX84/007	Thorn Field	SX812478	3.9	Semi-improved grassland, gorse & bracken	OSWI
SX84/010	Gara Mill	SX817481	1.1	Secondary broadleaved woodland & semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI

**Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):** these are notified by Natural England because of their plants, animals or geological features (the latter are geological SSSIs or gSSSI). Natural England needs to be consulted before any operations likely to damage the special interest are undertaken. SSSI is a statutory designation with legal implications.

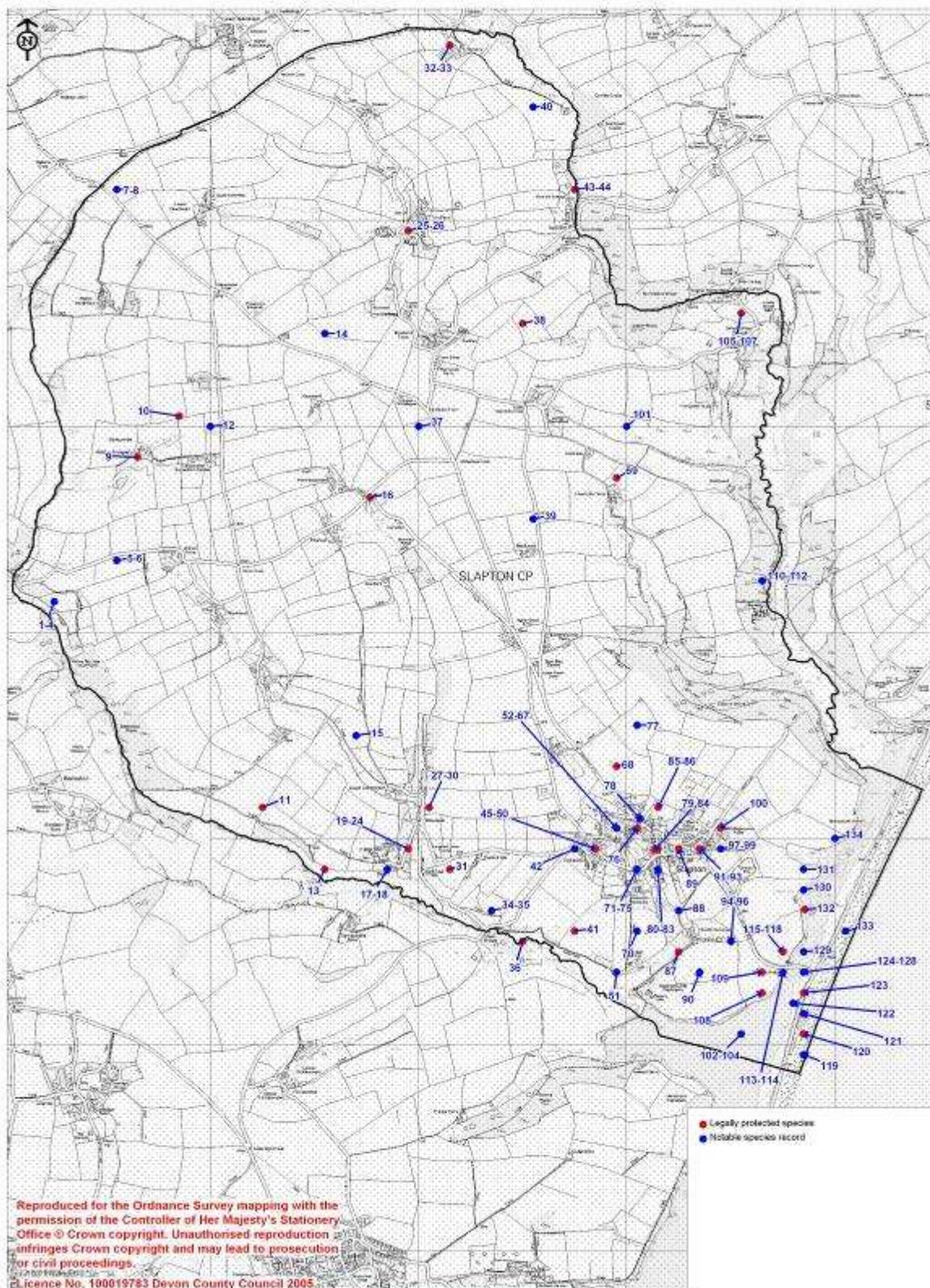
**County Wildlife Sites (CWS):** these are sites of county importance for wildlife, designated on the basis of the habitat or the known presence of particular species. This is not a statutory designation like SSSIs, and does not have any legal status. County Wildlife Sites are usually included in Local Plans as sites

of substantive nature conservation interest and are covered by Planning Policy Statement note nine (PPS9). CWS recognition does not demand any particular actions on the part of the Landowner and does not give the public rights of access. However, it may increase eligibility for land management grants.

**Unconfirmed County Wildlife Sites (UWS):** these are sites identified as having possible interest but not fully surveyed. Some of these sites will be areas of significant wildlife interest.

**Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS):** these are earth science sites that are of regional or local importance. Like CWS, they are included in Local Plans and referred to under PPG9.

Legally protected & notable species records within Slapton Parish,  
South Hams (2008)



### Notable Species within and close to Slapton parish

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
1	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Alston Wash and Battleford Wood	1992	SX792461	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
2	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Alston Wash and Battleford Wood	1992	SX792461			DBAP
3	Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Alston Wash and Battleford Wood	1992	SX792461	WCA 8 (S)		
4	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Alston Wash and Battleford Wood;	1992	SX792461			DBAP
5	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Farm, Slapton	2001	SX795463	WCA 1, 9		DBAP; Amber
6	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Farm, Slapton	2001	SX795463			UKBAP (P); DBAP
7	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	On five mile lane, Slapton to Totnes road.	2001	SX795481			UKBAP (P); DBAP
8	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	On road at five mile lane leading to A381 near Wallaton Cross.	2001	SX795481			UKBAP (P); DBAP
9	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Dittiscombe, north of Chillington.	2004	SX796468	WCA 1, 9		DBAP; Amber
10	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Dittiscombe, north of Chillington.	2004	SX798470	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
11	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Green lane between Higher Start Farm and Battle Ford, Slapton.	2003	SX802451	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
12	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	DEARSWELL	1999	SX8047			UKBAP (P)
13	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Darnacombe	2000	SX805448	WCA 5	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
14	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	On road near Dearswell. (North-east from Slapton Village on the way to Halwell.)	2000	SX805474			UKBAP (P); DBAP
15	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		1996-1997	SX807455			UKBAP (P)
16	A bat	Chiroptera	Little Pittaford, near Slapton.	2004	SX80764665	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II	
17	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Start	1987	SX808448			DBAP
18	Hoary Plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	Start	1987	SX808448			DN2
19	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Cottage garden, Start, Slapton.	2001	SX809449			UKBAP (P); Red
20	Slow-Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Cottage garden, Start, Slapton.	2001	SX809449	WCA 5(KIS)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
21	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	Cottage garden, Start,	2001	SX809449			DBAP
22	Common Frog	Rana temporaria	Cottage garden, Start, Slapton.	2001	SX809449	WCA 5(S)	EC Va; Bern III	
23	Common Toad	Bufo bufo	Garden at, Start, Slapton	2001	SX809449	WCA 5(S)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
24	Badger	Meles meles	Cottage garden, Start, Slapton.	2001	SX809449	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
25	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Farm	1981-1992	SX809479			DBAP
26	Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Farm	1981	SX809479	WCA 8 (S)		
27	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	Cottage, Nr Slapton, Kingsbridge.	1998	SX810451	WCA 5, 6	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
28	Whiskered Bat	Myotis mystacinus	Cottage, Nr Slapton, Kingsbridge.	2002	SX810451	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	
29	A bat	Chiroptera	Cottage, Nr Slapton, Kingsbridge.	2002	SX810451	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II	
30	Greater Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	Cottage, Nr Slapton, Kingsbridge.	2002	SX810451	WCA 5, 6	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
31	Badger	Meles meles	Deerbridge Mill, Start, near	2001	SX811448	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
			Slapton.					
32	a bat	Myotis sp.	Farm, Blackawton, Totnes.	1993-1996	SX811488	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II	
33	Brown Long-Eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	Farm, Blackawton, Totnes.	1993-1996	SX811488	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
34	Otter	Lutra lutra	Slapton Town	1997	SX813446	WCA 5	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
35	Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	In hedge at Deer Bridge, Slapton.	2001	SX813446			UKBAP (P); Red
36	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	Slapton Ley nature trail, in wet reedbed	2001	SX8144	WCA 1		
37	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	MERRIFIELD	1999	SX8147			UKBAP (P)
38	Otter	Lutra lutra	Avon, Erme, Slapton	1989	SX8147	WCA 5	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
39	Skylark	Alauda arvensis	On fields north of village near Start Bay Centre.	2001	SX815465			UKBAP (P); Red
40	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	Merricombe	1992	SX815485			Amber
41	Water Shrew	Neomys fodiens	Side of footpath, near Slapton.	2000	SX817445	WCA 6	Bern III	

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
42	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Slapton Ley, Greenbanks	2001	SX817449			UKBAP (P); Red
43	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Gara Mill; Wooded Areas	1992	SX817481			DBAP
44	Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Gara Mill; Wooded Areas	1992	SX817481	WCA 8 (S)		
45	Great Green Bush Cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	Garden at Brandis Park, Slapton	2001	SX818449			DBAP
46	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Garden at Brandis Park, Slapton	2001	SX818449			UKBAP (P); Red
47	Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Garden at Brandis Park, Slapton	2001	SX818449	WCA 6	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
48	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Garden at Brandis Park, Slapton	2001	SX818449	WCA 5(S)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
49	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Garden at Brandis Park, Slapton	2001	SX818449			UKBAP (P); Red
50	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Garden at Brandis Park, Slapton	2001	SX818449	WCA 5(S)	EC Va; Bern III	
51	Great Green Bush Cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	Slapton Ley	2000	SX819443			DBAP

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
52	Knotgrass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1990-1993	SX819450			UKBAP (P)
53	Ruddy Carpet	<i>Catarhoe rubidata</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1991	SX819450			Nb
54	Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1991-1993	SX819450			UKBAP (P)
55	Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1993	SX819450			UKBAP (P)
56	Kent Black Arches	<i>Meganola albula</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1993	SX819450			Nb
57	Rosy Minor	<i>Mesoligia literosa</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1993	SX819450			UKBAP (P)
58	Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1991-1992	SX819450			UKBAP (P)
59	Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1990-1992	SX819450			UKBAP (P)
60	Mullein Wave	<i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1990-1993	SX819450			UKBAP (P)

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
61	Barred Hook-Tip	<i>Drepana cultraria</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1990	SX819450			Nb
62	White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1990-1992	SX819450			UKBAP (P)
63	Orange Footman	<i>Eilema sororcula</i>	Slapton, Andrews Wood	1991	SX819450			Nb
64	Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene selene</i>	Slapton, Andrews Wood	1990	SX819450			UKBAP (P); Decline
65	Devon Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx otregiata</i>	Slapton, Andrews Wood	1990	SX819450			Nb
66	Small Square-Spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1991-1992	SX819450			UKBAP (P)
67	Jersey Tiger	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>	Slapton Field Study Centre (Rothamsted)	1993	SX819450			Nb
68	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Near Slapton village	2006	SX819453	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
69	a Bat	Chiroptera	Farmhouse, Slapton.	2006	SX819467	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II	
70	Great Green Bush Cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	Slapton Ley, near SWW works	2000	SX820445			DBAP
71	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Garden, Slapton	2001	SX820448			UKBAP (P); Red

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
72	Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	Garden, Slapton	2001	SX820448	WCA 5(KIS)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
73	Slow-Worm	Anguis fragilis	Garden, Slapton	2001	SX820448	WCA 5(KIS)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
74	Common Toad	Bufo bufo	Garden, Slapton	2001	SX820448	WCA 5(S)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
75	Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Garden, Slapton	2001	SX820448			UKBAP (P); Red
76	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	Cottage, Slapton.	1991-2003	SX820450	WCA 5, 6	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
77	Skylark	Alauda arvensis	Fields top side of Slapton.	2001	SX820455			UKBAP (P); Red
78	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	Slapton village, near to the Tower Inn.	2002	SX82064509			DBAP
79	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	Church Lane, Slapton.	2003	SX82134494	WCA 5, 6	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
80	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	Garden, Slapton	2000-2001	SX821448			DBAP
81	Common Toad	Bufo bufo	Garden, Slapton	2001	SX821448	WCA 5(S)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
82	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	Garden, Slapton	2001	SX821448			UKBAP (P); Red
83	Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Garden, Slapton	2001	SX821448			UKBAP (P); Red
84	A bat	Chiroptera	Church Lane, Slapton.	1998-1999	SX821449	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II	

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
85	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	Cottage, Slapton.	1999-2004	SX821451	WCA 5, 6	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
86	a Bat	Chiroptera	Cottage, Slapton.	2005	SX821451	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II	
87	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	Slapton Ley, South Devon.	2001	SX822444	WCA 5, 6	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
88	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	Slapton Ley	2000	SX822446			DBAP
89	Common Frog	Rana temporaria	Garden, Slapton, Kingsbridge.	2005	SX822449	WCA 5(S)	EC Va; Bern III	
90	Small-Flowered Buttercup	Ranunculus parviflorus	Slapton Ley	1992	SX823443			DN3
91	Slow-Worm	Anguis fragilis	Garden, Slapton, Kingsbridge.	2001	SX823449	WCA 5(KIS)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
92	Pygmy Shrew	Sorex minutus	Slapton Ley field centre.	2001	SX823449	WCA 6	Bern III	
93	Common Shrew	Sorex araneus	Slapton Ley field centre.	2001	SX823449	WCA 6	Bern III	
94	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	Slapton Ley nature trail, near South Grounds Farm	2001	SX8244			UKBAP (P); Red
95	Otter	Lutra lutra	Slapton Ley, nature trail by the old pill.	2003	SX8244	WCA 5	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
96	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	Sands Road, Slapton	2000	SX8244			DBAP

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
97	45 Khz Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus 45kHz	Slapton Field Studies Centre.	2003	SX824449	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II	
98	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	Slapton Field Studies Centre.	2000-2003	SX824449			DBAP
99	Long-Winged Conehead	Conocephalus discolor	Slapton Ley SSSI; Field Studies Centre. Along footpath	2000	SX824449			Na
100	Common Shrew	Sorex araneus	Slapton	2002	SX824450	WCA 6	Bern III	
101	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	HANSEL	1999	SX8247			UKBAP (P)
102	Ruddy Darter	Sympetrum sanguineum	Slapton Ley SSSI	1995	SX825440			Nb; KeyD (R)
103	Keeled Skimmer	Orthetrum coerulescens	Slapton Ley SSSI	1995	SX825440			KeyD (N)
104	Hairy Dragonfly	Brachytron pratense	Slapton Ley SSSI	1995	SX825440			Nb; KeyD (N)
105	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	Hansel, Slapton, Nr Dartmouth.	2000	SX825475	WCA 5, 6	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
106	Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Hansel, Slapton, Nr Dartmouth.	2000	SX825475	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II	
107	Brown Long-Eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	Hansel, Slapton, Nr Dartmouth.	2000	SX825475	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
108	Badger	Meles meles	Slapton fields.	1998	SX826442	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
109	Strapwort	Corrigiola litoralis	Slapton Ley	1989-2001	SX826443	WCA 8		DN1; DR; endg

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
110	Butcher's-Broom	Ruscus aculeatus	Goldswell Quarry	1992	SX826462		EC Vb	
111	Hobby	Falco subbuteo	Goldswell Quarry	1992	SX826462	WCA 1		
112	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Goldswell Quarry	1992	SX826462			DBAP
113	Greater Duckweed	Spirodela polyrhiza	Slapton Ley, lower ley.	2002	SX827443			DN1
114	Ivy-Leaved Duckweed	Lemna trisulca	Slapton Ley, lower ley.	2002	SX827443			DN1
115	Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	Slapton Ley SSSI	2001	SX827444	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III	UKBAP (P); DBAP
116	Water Shrew	Neomys fodiens	Slapton Ley.	2001	SX827444	WCA 6	Bern III	
117	Jersey Tiger	Euplagia quadripunctaria	Slapton Ley SSSI; Ringing hut	1991	SX827444			Nb
118	Pennyroyal	Mentha pulegium	Slapton Sands	1957	SX827444	WCA 8		UKBAP (P); DN1; DR; endg
119	Sea Spurge	Euphorbia paralias	Slapton	1988	SX828439			DN1
120	Shore Dock	Rumex rupestris	Slapton Ley	1977	SX828440	WCA 8	EC IIb, IVb; Bern I	UKBAP (P); DN1; DR; endg
121	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	Slapton Ley, opposite toilets in public car park	2002	SX828441			DBAP
122	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera		1997	SX828442			UKBAP (P)

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
123	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Slapton Ley, just about opposite the car park. Walking next to the Ley along path.	2001	SX828442	WCA 1		
124	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	In road verge at Slapton Bridge, next to the ley	2002	SX828443			Amber
125	Black-Headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	In road verge at Slapton Bridge, next to the ley	2002	SX828443			Amber
126	Great Green Bush Cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	In road verge at Slapton Bridge, next to the ley	2002	SX828443			DBAP
127	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	In road verge at Slapton Bridge, next to the ley	2002	SX828443			Amber
128	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	In road verge at Slapton Bridge, next to the ley	2002	SX828443			Amber
129	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Slapton Bridge-looking across Lower ley	2001	SX828444			Amber
130	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Slapton Ley.	2001	SX828447			UKBAP (P); DBAP

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
131	Small-Flowered Buttercup	Ranunculus parviflorus	Slapton Ley	1992	SX828448			DN3
132	Badger	Meles meles	Higher Slapton Ley.	1998	SX82854465	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
133	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	Strete Gate; Slapton Sands	1999	SX830445			DBAP
134	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	Street Gate	1999	SX8345			UKBAP (P)

**WCA 1**            **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 1:** birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.

**WCA 5**            **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 5:** species protected against killing, injury, disturbance and handling.

**WCA 5 (S)**        **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 5: (sale):** species protected against sale only.

**WCA 5 (KIS)**     **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 5: (killing & injury):** species protected against killing, injury and sale only.

**WCA 6**            **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 6:** animals (other than birds) which may not be killed or taken by certain methods

**WCA 8**            **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 8:** plants which are protected.

**WCA 8 (S)**        **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 8: (sale):** plants protected against sale only.

**WCA 9**            **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 9:** animals and plants for which release into the wild is prohibited.

**BA**                **Protection of Badgers Act 1992:** badgers may not be deliberately killed, persecuted or trapped except under licence. Badger setts may not be damaged, destroyed or obstructed.

<b>DA</b>	<b>Deer Act 1991:</b> deer protected under the Deer Act.
<b>Bern II</b>	<b>Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix II:</b> Special protection for listed animal species and their habitats.
<b>Bern III</b>	<b>Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix III:</b> Exploitation of listed animal species to be subject to regulation
<b>ECIIa, IIb</b>	<b>EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats &amp; Species Directive) Annex IIa and IIb:</b> Designation of protected areas for animal and plant species listed.
<b>ECIIIa, IIIb</b>	<b>EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats &amp; Species Directive) Annex IIIa and IIIb:</b> Species used as criteria for designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
<b>ECIVa, IVb</b>	<b>EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats &amp; Species Directive) Annex IVa:</b> Exploitation of listed animals and plants to be subject to management if necessary.
<b>ECVa, Vb</b>	<b>EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats &amp; Species Directive) Annex Va and Vb:</b> Exploitation of listed animals and plants to be subject to management if necessary.
<b>Bonn II</b>	<b>Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) Appendix II:</b> Range states encouraged to conclude international agreements to benefit species listed.
<b>UKBAP(P)</b>	<b>UK Priority Species (Short and Middle Lists - UK Biodiversity steering Group Report 1995)</b> i.e. species that are globally threatened and rapidly declining in the UK (by more than 50% in the last 25 years). Has a Species Action Plan.
<b>DBAP</b>	<b>Devon Biodiversity Action Plan species:</b> these have been identified as species of key conservation concern in Devon.
<b>NR</b>	<b>Nationally Rare:</b> 1-15 10km squares in Atlas of British Flora 1962.
<b>NS</b>	<b>Nationally Scarce:</b> 15-100 10km squares in Atlas of British Flora 1962.
<b>Devon Notable Species:</b> Selected species recorded from over 50 2km squares in the Atlas of Devon Flora 1984 (R.B. Ivimey-Cook, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Exeter).	
<b>DN1</b>	<b>Devon Notable<sup>1</sup>:</b> 1-25 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

<b>DN2</b>	<b>Devon Notable<sup>2</sup>:</b> 26-50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.
<b>DN3</b>	<b>Devon Notable<sup>3</sup>:</b> Selected species recorded from over 50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.
<b>DR</b>	<b>Devon Rarity:</b> native species recorded from 3 or fewer localities within Devon.
<b>Na</b>	<b>Nationally Notable A:</b> known from 30 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.
<b>Nb</b>	<b>Nationally Notable B:</b> known from 100 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.
<b>Decline</b>	Substantial local decline in Devon
<b>Red List</b>	Bird species of high conservation concern, such as those whose population or range is rapidly declining, recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern.
<b>Amber List</b>	Bird species of medium conservation concern, such as those whose population is in moderate decline, rare breeders, internationally important and localised species and those of unfavourable conservation status in Europe.
<b>KeyD (I)</b>	<b>Internationally Important Key Dragonfly Species:</b> those which are rare in Great Britain (RDB3 and found in less than 1% of the 10km squares in Britain) i.e. Southern damselfly ( <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> ).
<b>KeyD (N)</b>	<b>Nationally Important Key Dragonfly Species:</b> those which have been recorded in less than 10% of 10km squares in Britain. Those occurring in Devon are White-legged damselfly ( <i>Playcnemis pennipes</i> ) Scarce blue-tailed damselfly ( <i>Ischnura pumilio</i> ) Small red damselfly ( <i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i> ) Hairy dragonfly ( <i>Brachytron pratense</i> ) Downy emerald ( <i>Cordulia aenea</i> ) and Keeled skimmer ( <i>Orthoetrum coerulescens</i> ).
<b>KeyD (R)</b>	<b>Regionally Important Key Dragonfly Species:</b> those which have been recorded in 10-20% of the 10km squares in Britain: Red-eyed damselfly ( <i>Erythromma najas</i> ) and Ruddy darter ( <i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i> ).

## Appendix 2 - Species list recorded within Slapton parish during field visit.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Alexanders	<i>Smyrniololus atratum</i>
Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Barren Strawberry	<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Black Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
Broad Buckler-fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Common Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum aggregate</i>
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
Common Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Hard-fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
Hart's-tongue	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Hedge bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Ivy-leaved Toadflax	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Maidenhair Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>
Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>
Navelwort	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus sp</i>
Pendulous Sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i>
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Pine	<i>Pinus sp</i>
Polypody	<i>Polypodium agg.</i>

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra agg.</i>
Red Valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Soft Shield-fern	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>
Soft-rush	<i>Juncus effuses</i>
Sweet Violet	<i>Viola odorata</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Tree Mallow	<i>Lavatera maritima</i>
Variiegated Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiasturm galliopturum sbp. variegata</i>
Vetch	<i>Vicia sp</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Wild Clematis	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
Willow	<i>Salix sp</i>
Willowherb	<i>Epilobium sp</i>
Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
Wood False-brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>
Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>
Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

### **Birds**

Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Black Headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>

### **Mammals**

Rabbit (runs)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Mole (hills)	<i>Talpa europaea</i>

## Appendix 3 - Key Biodiversity Features of Slapton Parish

Statutory & non-statutory sites within Slapton Parish, South Hams (2008)

